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Bureau of Land Management

Ely Field Office
Ely, Nevada

April 2001

NEVADA
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA NOTEBOOK

Photo by Jake Rajala

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for stewardship of our public lands. The BLM is committed to manage, protect and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation, rangelands, timber, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness, air and scenic quality, as well as scientific and cultural values.

BLM/NV/GI-00/018+8500

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND:

On April 2, 1997 the Nevada State BLM Director approved and signed the **Nevada Wilderness Action Plan**. This Plan provides a framework of critical action items which must be accomplished before the passage of a Nevada BLM Wilderness bill. These action items, when completed, will ensure that the Nevada BLM is ready for the challenge and responsibility of protecting and managing future BLM additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

One of the action items in the **Nevada Wilderness Action Plan**, Action Item I.C., required that Wilderness Study Area (WSA) notebooks be prepared for all BLM WSAs in Nevada. The notebooks provide BLM management with "desk reference guides" to WSAs within the State, and may ultimately be used by members of Congress and the general public as enhanced versions of the **NEVADA BLM STATEWIDE WILDERNESS REPORT**.

Printed notebooks have been prepared for the respective jurisdictions of each of the six Nevada BLM Field Offices and for the Nevada portions of the California BLM's Eagle Lake and Surprise Field Offices. Each notebook consists of two parts for each WSA. The first part contains a one to three page narrative, which is simply a condensation of the WSA narrative contained in the **NEVADA BLM STATEWIDE WILDERNESS REPORT**. The elements described in the WSA narratives are as follows:

- The name, number, and acreage of the WSA
- A general location and boundary description
- A characterization of the wilderness values
- A discussion of the wilderness recommendation and rationale
- A summary of energy and mineral resource values
- A summation of issues and public interest in the WSA

The second part of each notebook incorporates a series of six maps for each WSA which display the following Geographic Information System (GIS) themes: 1) contours, 2) counties, 3) geographic names and features, 4) land ownership, 5) public land survey system, 6) roads, 7) water features, 8) BLM WSA, recommended "suitable," and "non-suitable" boundaries, 9) developments and disturbances, 10) rights-of-way, 11) grazing allotments, 12) herd management areas, 13) federally-listed threatened and endangered species, 14) mining claim density, 15) mining operation locations, 16) mineral potential, 17) special-use air space, and 18) military aircraft training routes.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The information displayed on the subsequent maps is intended to give the reader an overview of the most significant physical, cultural, and resource management data available within and immediately outside WSA boundaries. Because resource data is constantly changing and is frequently modified, accuracy of the data only applies to this publication.

Further, the data presented is limited to that which can be characterized at the scale utilized for this project, as it is impossible to portray all available GIS data in an 81/2" by 11" format. For example, not all mineral potential is shown for each WSA. In many cases, only the highest mineral potential for the most valuable mineral is indicated for a given WSA, as it would be spatially and graphically untenable, and visually discordant to attempt to exhibit all mineral potential for all minerals present within a WSA. Consequently, many medium and low mineral potentials for the least valuable minerals have not been depicted on the WSA maps. Refer to the "Definitions and Explanations" section which follows for more specific information regarding mineral potential.

Similarly, only observations of federally listed threatened and endangered species are exhibited on the WSA maps. Proposed and candidate special status species are not shown, nor are State of Nevada listed species.

The physical and resource management data arrayed on these maps has been collected from U.S. Geological Survey 1:100,000 Digital Line Graph files and were digitized from 71/2 minute (1:24,000) U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps. In some cases, if no WSA boundary exists on a 71/2 minute map, linear data may be incomplete for that file or map. Some linear data, such as utility rights-of-way, or livestock water systems or utility lines, may abruptly end on the map without extending all the way to the map frame line.

The physical and resource management data depicted on these WSA maps portrays the most accurate data available at the time of map preparation. Base data has been extracted from various scale base maps and some of the data has not been field-checked or ground-proofed. As more accurate inventory and resource management information becomes available, WSA maps will be amended or revised.

For a comprehensive depiction of mineral potential, special status species, or for complete information regarding any other GIS theme, please address mail to the GIS Coordinator, BLM Nevada State Office, P.O. Box 12000, Reno, Nevada 89520-0006. You may visit the GIS Coordinator at 1340 Financial Boulevard, or you may call the Coordinator at 775-861-6400.

For information regarding a specific resource inventory or database that is not GIS related, please contact appropriate Field Office or Field Station resource specialists. Field Offices and Field Stations in Nevada are located in Elko, Winnemucca, Carson City, Ely, Las Vegas, Battle Mountain, Tonopah, and Caliente. Portions of the northwest section of the State are managed by the Eagle Lake Field Office in Susanville, California and the Surprise Field Office in Cedarville, California.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

ALLOTMENT -- An area of land designated and managed for the grazing of livestock.

CHERRY-STEMMED ROAD -- A road that is completely enclosed on both sides by a Wilderness Study Area boundary. The Wilderness Study Area boundary is the edge of the right-of-way if a right-of-way has been granted, or the edge of disturbance if no right-of-way has been issued. Cherry-stemmed roads appear as red and black dashed lines within WSA boundaries on the "WSA Boundaries and Land Ownership" maps. Cherry-stemmed ways, trails, and washes appear as black dashed lines within WSA boundaries on the "WSA Boundaries and Land Ownership" maps. In some instances, these black dashed lines may appear to be a solid line at the page size scale.

DEVELOPMENT -- For purposes of this document, any structure, facility, or enhancement constructed and located on public lands. These include but are not limited to, developed springs, fences, wildlife guzzlers, stock ponds, gabions.

DISTURBANCE -- For purposes of this document, a disruption of the soil or vegetation within a Wilderness Study Area necessitating recontouring of the topography, replacement of topsoil, and/or restoration of native plant cover. These include but are not limited to, mines, material sites, ditches, roads, excavated trash dumps.

HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (HMA) -- A geographic area identified as having been used by a herd as its habitat on the date of passage of the Wild Horse and Burro Act of 1971 that has been established for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds.

INSTANT STUDY AREA (ISA) -- Any of eleven natural areas formally identified by the Nevada BLM through a final action published in the Federal Register before November 1, 1975. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat. 2743, 43 USC 1701) required an accelerated wilderness review of these areas which, for all intents and purposes, are Wilderness Study Areas.

MILITARY TRAINING ROUTE -- A route established to accommodate low-altitude military training operations of aircraft that permits speeds in excess of 250 knots indicated air speed below 10,000 feet mean sea level (MSL). Some segments may extend above 10,000 feet MSL due to terrain or other requirements.

MINERAL POTENTIAL -- A prediction of the likelihood of the occurrence of a solid, liquid, or gaseous mineral resource within a Wilderness Study Area expressed in terms of "high," "medium," or "low" potential.

The mineral potential information portrayed on the WSA maps is taken from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Bulletins prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Mines to study the mineral potential of Wilderness Study Areas in Nevada. The USGS and Bureau of Mines conducted mineral surveys on areas approximating recommended “suitable” portions of WSAs to determine the mineral values, if any, that may be present. The recommended “nonsuitable” portions of WSAs within WSAs containing recommended “suitable” portions were not surveyed, nor were literature searches conducted on the “nonsuitable” portions of these WSAs. The mineral potential for WSAs that were wholly recommended “nonsuitable” was not studied by the USGS and Bureau of Mines. However, wholly recommended “nonsuitable” WSAs were assessed based on a literature search and, where applicable, on discussions with private industry.

Some inconsistencies may be noted between the discussion of mineral potential in the WSA narratives and the mineral potential displayed on the WSA maps. These inconsistencies are attributable to the fact that the BLM’s Geology, Energy, and Minerals (GEM) Reports, which were prepared in the early 1980s, were the primary source of mineral information for the WSA narratives. The GEM Reports predated the Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey Bulletins, which were prepared as late as 1990, and were the only sources of data utilized in the preparation of WSA maps. Thus, due to the availability of new mineral information, advances in technology, and the refinement of predictive models between 1980 and 1990, some differences may be noted between the WSA narratives and the WSA maps.

The Bureau of Mines and USGS Bulletins were prepared utilizing the best information available. The “best information available” was characterized in the Survey Bulletins as “Levels of Certainty” which ranged from “Available information (A - is not adequate for determination of) (B - only suggests) (C - gives a good indication of) (D - clearly defines) the level of mineral resource potential.” “Levels of Certainty” are not displayed on the WSA maps for the minerals present within each WSA due to spatial and graphic limitations.

In some cases, the boundaries of the mineral potential do not coincide precisely with the boundaries of the Wilderness Study Areas because Bureau of Mines and USGS report boundaries were digitized at a different scale compared with the WSA boundaries, and WSA boundaries had not been finalized at the time the mineral reports were published. Furthermore, in some areas of the state where WSAs are clustered and two or more WSAs are separated only by a road, a reader interested in a given WSA may have to refer to the “Mineral Potential” maps of adjacent WSAs for a more comprehensive display of the mineral potential within the WSA of interest. That is to say, larger mineral groupings identified on the “Mineral Potential” maps of adjoining WSAs may extend into the WSA of interest but may not be exhibited in the legend of the WSA of interest.

MINING CLAIM -- The mining claims identified on the "Mining Claim Density and Operations" WSA map are the total number of "active" mining claims and sites within and adjacent to each WSA as of the date specified on the WSA map. "Active" mining claims and sites are defined as "claims and sites for which all required fees and filings have been timely submitted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations." The mining claim density symbol depicted on the WSA map gives a representation of the number of claims and sites within a section of land. It does not necessarily indicate that mining claims and sites are located wholly within WSA boundaries.

MINING OPERATION -- A mining claim activity for which a 3809 Mining Notice or Plan of Operation or a 3802 Plan of Operation has been filed with the Bureau of Land Management.

Mining operations shown on the "Mining Claim Density and Operations" WSA map, which have no corresponding mining claim beneath them, can be attributed to one or more reasons. First, the information came from two separate and distinct databases that may not have been completely reconciled, one with the other. Second, mining law states that a description of location need only be sufficient for a person to find a claim on the ground. Sometimes the description of location is only the "best guess" of the claimant or the operator as to where the claim is actually located rather than a legally described location. Third, discrepancies may be due to data entry errors.

It is not always necessary to possess a mining claim in order to conduct a mining operation. For example, failure to pay necessary fees and filings in a timely manner will result in mining claim termination. However, the associated mining operation may not terminate with the claim.

RECOMMENDED NON-SUITABLE -- All or a portion of a Wilderness Study Area that the President has recommended to the United States Congress as not appropriate and not acceptable for preservation and designation as wilderness based on an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

RECOMMENDED SUITABLE -- All or a portion of a Wilderness Study Area that the President has recommended to the United States Congress as appropriate and acceptable for preservation and designation as wilderness based on an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

RIGHT-OF-WAY -- An authorization to use or occupy public lands pursuant to the issuance of a right-of-way grant. A right-of-way grant authorizes use over, upon, under or through public lands for construction, operation, maintenance and termination of a project. Right-of-way grants may be issued for, but are not limited to, such uses as roads, trails, reservoirs, canals, ditches, pipelines, transmission lines, railroads, and communication sites. These more common types of right-of-way grants are specifically identified on the "Rights-of-Way" WSA map. Less common types of right-of-way grants, for such uses as weather stations, stock driveways, etc.,

have not been shown on the WSA maps.

ROAD -- For purposes of the wilderness review program, a route that has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. "Improved and maintained" means physical actions taken by man to keep the road open to vehicular traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance. "Mechanical means" is the use of hand or power machinery or tools. "Relatively regular and continuous use" means vehicular use which has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis.

SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE -- Consists of airspace wherein activity must be confined because of its nature and/or wherein limitation may be imposed upon aircraft operations. The purpose of a special use airspace is to identify for other airspace users where military activity occurs, segregate that activity from other users to enhance safety, and allow charting to keep airspace users informed of activity within the special use airspace.

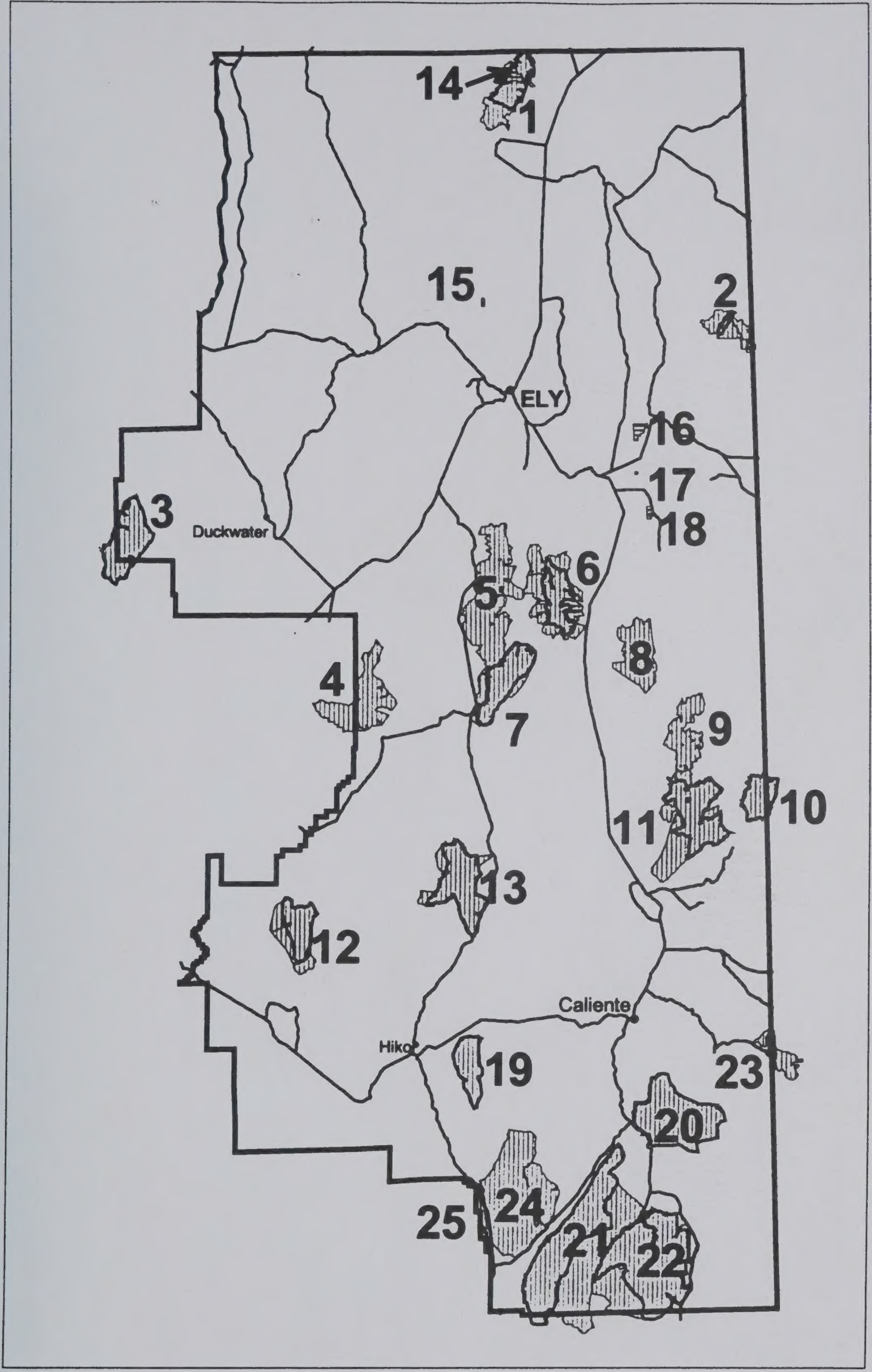
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED (T&E) -- The words "threatened" and "endangered" are used in this document to describe Federal listings authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended. "Threatened" means any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Endangered" means any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Only Federally listed threatened and endangered species are shown on the WSA maps. Points on the map represent observation records or museum collections only and do not indicate extent of habitat or species distribution.

TRAIL -- A pathway usually created and maintained by human foot traffic, beasts-of-burden, livestock, or wildlife. Trails are not shown on WSA maps but are mentioned in some WSA narrative texts.

WAY -- A track or route within a Wilderness Study Area maintained solely by the passage of vehicles which has not been improved and/or maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. Ways were identified during the intensive inventory phase of the Wilderness Review Process. Although mentioned in some WSA narrative texts, ways are not shown on WSA maps.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA) -- A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to possess wilderness characteristics as described in Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Private and other agency inholdings within Wilderness Study Area boundaries are officially, legally, and technically not part of the Wilderness Study Area. Some private and other agency inholdings are not shown with the Wilderness Study Area boundary symbol around them.

MAP INDEX UMBER	STUDY AREA NAME	ID NUMBER
1	Goshute Canyon	NV-040-015
2	Marble Canyon	NV-040-086
3	Park Range	NV-040-154
4	Riordan's Well	NV-040-166
5	South Egan Range	NV-040-168
6	Mount Grafton	NV-040-169
7	Far South Egans	NV-040-172
8	Fortification Range	NV-040-177
9	Table Mountain	NV-040-197
10	White Rock Range	NV-040-202
11	Parsnip Peak	NV-040-206
12	Worthington Mountains	NV-040-242
13	Weepah Spring	NV-040-246
14	Goshute Canyon ISA	
15	Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine ISA	
16	Swamp Cedar ISA	
17	Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA	
18	Shoshone Ponds ISA	
19	South Pahroc Range	NV-050-132
20	Clover Mountains	NV-050-139
21	Meadow Valley Range	NV-050-156
22	Mormon Mountains	NV-050-161
23	Tunnel Spring	NV-050-166
24	Delamar Mountains	NV-050-177
25	Evergreen A B C	NV-050-01R-16



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Duckwater
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Caliente
Hiko
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Wilderness Study Areas

INDEX

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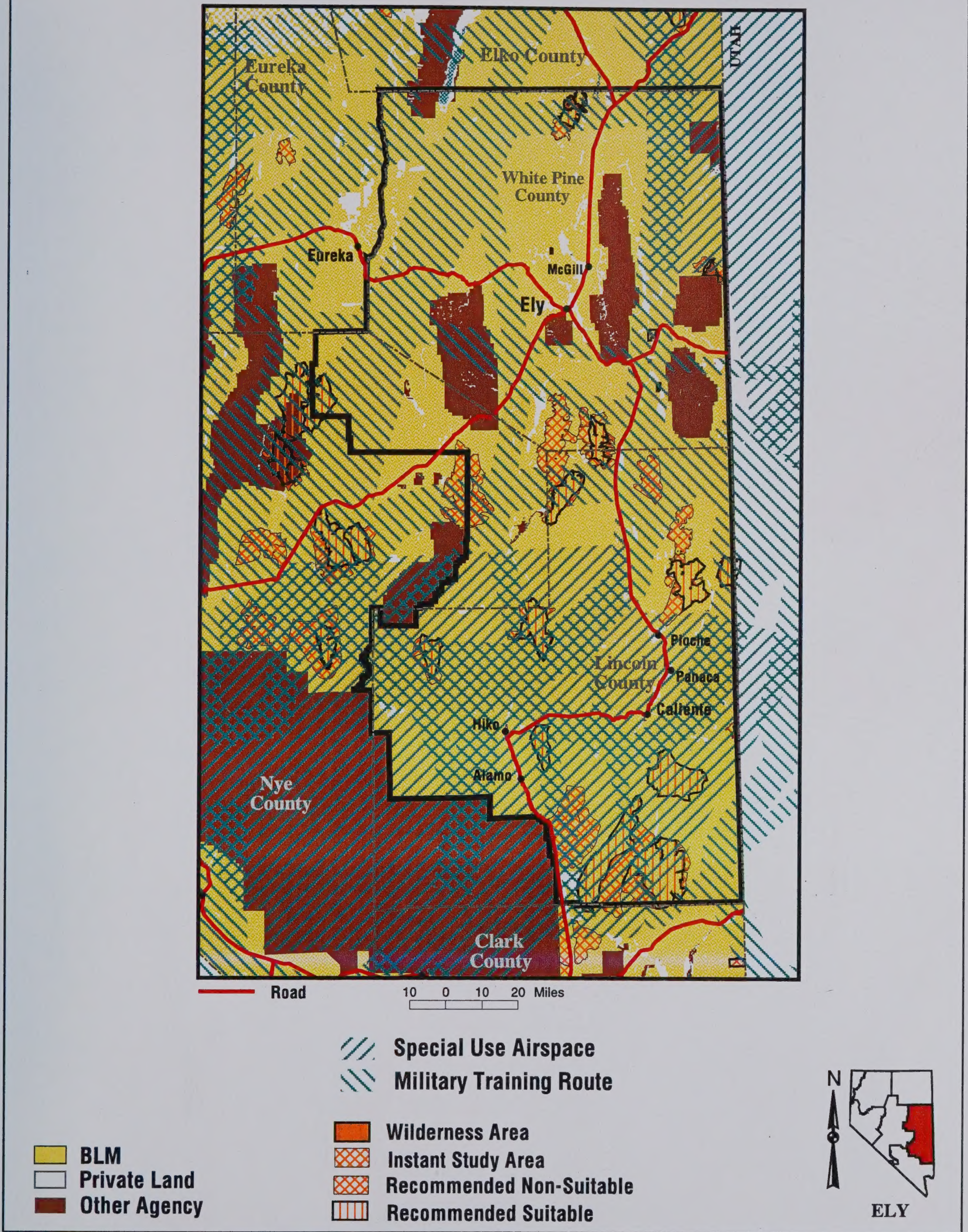
Ely Wilderness Study Areas
MILITARY AIRSPACE


Eureka County
Elko County
UTAH
White Pine County
Eureka
McGill
Ely
Pioche
Panaca
Lincoln County
Caliente
Hiko
Alamo
Nye County
Clark County
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Special Use Airspace
Military Training Route
Wilderness Area
Instant Study Area
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
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GOSHUTE CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 35,594 acres

The Goshute Canyon WSA (NV-040-015) is located in the Cherry Creek Mountains in east-central Nevada within White Pine and Elko Counties. The entire WSA is comprised of 35,594 acres of public land with one 15-acre patented mining claim inholding near the southern boundary. The Goshute Canyon Natural Area/Instant Study Area is partially (5,009 acres) located within the WSA. The remaining 2,641 acres of the Natural Area are contiguous with the WSA to the east and west, separated by roads or jeep trails.

The southern boundary of the WSA is defined by a series of patented mining claims and connecting jeep trails. The western edge of the WSA is formed by roads along the eastern side of Butte Valley and the Paris Canyon Road. Two parcels of private land and connecting jeep trails form the northern boundary of the WSA and a series of roads, jeeps trails and fencelines define the eastern boundary.

The 13-mile long Goshute Canyon WSA is a rugged, uplifted range, with massive white limestone cliffs jutting from its slopes. The lower elevations are thickly forested by pinyon pine and juniper, while bristlecone and limber pine blanket the higher elevations. Aspens and cottonwoods in the moist drainages provide for a verdant, cool retreat. Large high elevation basins rimmed by naked peaks contain pockets of aspen and white fir and are filled with wild flowers in spring and summer. Snowmelt and numerous springs provide riparian settings and water sources for a great number of wildlife species that include Bonneville cutthroat trout in Goshute Creek, mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, owls, falcons, eagles, hawks, kestrels and marmots.

The WSA is a natural, harmonious composition of contrasts. Brilliant yellow fall color and light-colored rock are juxtaposed with the dark green foliage of the evergreen canopy. Distance becomes distorted, difficult to judge because of the immense scale of topographic features, while the detail of weathered rock, of small grassland riparian areas, and of stark white aspen trees complete a nearly perfect tableau. No one who visits the area leaves without a strong impression of the area's beauty.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 22,225 acres recommended for wilderness
13,369 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the Goshute Canyon WSA is to designate 22,225 acres as wilderness and release 13,369 acres for uses other than wilderness. Exceptionally high wilderness values, strong public interest, and a limited amount of competing resource uses were the reasons for recommending a portion of the WSA as wilderness.

The rugged, mountainous core of the Cherry Creek Range comprises the recommended portion of the Goshute Canyon WSA. With elevations rising above 10,000 feet, expansive meadows rimmed by craggy peaks create a vision of untouched natural beauty. Numerous aspen stands, large jutting limestone outcrops, conifer forests and open areas intermix to form visually pleasing mosaics throughout the unit. Bristlecone pine, one of the area's special features, can be found in their classic, gnarled configuration along the windswept ridgelines. On more protected slopes large, vigorous stands of bristlecone pine grow tall and straight.

Further enhancing the high wilderness values are Goshute and Carry Basins. These huge, scenic basins provide crucial watershed for several perennial streams and riparian areas which are an integral part of the unit. Goshute Creek hosts a viable population of Bonneville cutthroat trout, a State sensitive species. Goshute Cave, another of the area's special features provides superb caving opportunities. This gentle, yet highly decorated cave provides visitors with an unusual glimpse into the subterranean wilderness. The

nature of the limestone within the WSA almost ensures the presence of an undiscovered cave resource for the persistent explorer. The potential for undiscovered caverns is one of the compelling reasons cavers highly regard the area.

The southern portion of the WSA, while most of it is highly scenic, was not included in the area recommended for wilderness because of past mineral interest in the area. Further contributing to the nonwilderness recommendation for the southern portion of the WSA are the unnatural features associated with the old mining operations. There is some potential for disseminated gold deposits associated with jasperoid outcrops. Development of lode deposits is anticipated to occur in the portion of the WSA recommended for uses other than wilderness.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The core of the Goshute Canyon WSA is in a pristine condition. When in the center of the WSA, the forces of nature dominate the senses. Only a few imprints of man's work lie within the WSA, and these are unnoticeable within the area as a whole and do not detract from the enjoyment of the area's wilderness character. These include two rock gabions in Goshute Canyon, numerous two-track routes (most only a few hundred feet in length) established on the periphery of the area, a buried pipeline, and several historic structures. The foregoing description of these several unnatural features tends to focus attention on them and thereby exaggerate their significance. Put back in the context of the 35,594 acre area where they occur, these impacts are substantially unnoticeable, being dwarfed and absorbed by the largeness of the landform. Vegetative and topographic screening conceal most of them whenever the visitor is more than a few feet distant from them. The overwhelming impression of the area is that it retains its primeval character, unaltered by man's activities.

B. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude in the Goshute Canyon WSA are outstanding. While the size and configuration of the unit certainly contribute to these; it is the topographic and vegetative screening which are primarily responsible. The rugged and very precipitous 13-mile length of the Cherry Creek Mountains runs along an approximately north-south axis and is highly broken by ancillary east-west ridges and associated canyons. The screening effect of this variegated terrain is complemented by extensive forestation which cloaks most of the area.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities are outstanding in the Goshute Canyon WSA because of their quality and diversity. Presently, hunting is one of the major recreational pursuits. Much of the WSA provides key habitat for mule deer, and every year heavy hunter use occurs all around the area's periphery. Mountain lions, blue grouse, and sage grouse are also unusually prolific and provide abundant hunting opportunities. The area around Goshute Canyon offers especially noteworthy opportunities for recreation. Fishing opportunities of moderate quality occur in Goshute Creek, which hosts a population of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout. Easy walk-in camping can be done along the banks of both Goshute and Carry Creeks beneath cottonwoods and willows. About 1-mile to the north of the mouth of Goshute Canyon is Goshute Cave, an extensive limestone solution cave that offers excellent opportunities for caving and geological study. Less utilized but similarly excellent recreation opportunities in the WSA include day hiking, backpacking, nature study, photography, rock climbing, and cross-country skiing.

D. Special Features: Many special features, including Goshute Cave, bristlecone pines and a diversity of numerous wildlife species contribute to the attractiveness of the Goshute Canyon WSA. The WSA, with its well watered basins, abundant resources, and topographic diversity, proved to be an attractive area for primitive man in eastern Nevada. Historic resources within the WSA are mostly located on the lower reaches of the more accessible drainages and provide a unique glimpse into eastern Nevada's early history of settlement.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The portion of the Goshute Canyon WSA recommended for wilderness would be easily managed as wilderness for the long term. There are no private lands nor mining claims, and it appears highly unlikely that the oil and gas leases on the north end will ever be developed. Control of off-road vehicle use on the approaches to the mountains necessitate some patrol, especially during the high-use months of deer season and trapping season. There is a possibility that stream stabilization work may be necessary in Goshute Creek. Past efforts to improve the fishery have exacerbated erosion problems and further destabilized conditions. Severe flooding in past years has caused deep headcutting on portions of the creek resulting in the lowering of the creek bed by 30 feet in some places.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment for the Goshute Canyon WSA in 1988 (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1725-E). The USGS/BM study rates the Goshute Canyon WSA as having low potential for oil and gas, and geothermal resources. The report indicates that the majority of the recommended portion has low potential for the occurrence of mineralization which would host gold, silver, antimony, copper, lead, zinc and tungsten. Small jasperoid-silica zones along the fringes of the suitable portion were identified by the report as having a moderate mineral potential for gold, silver, antimony, and tungsten.

The Goshute Canyon WSA encompasses the central portion of the Cherry Creek Range. Mineral interest in the Cherry Creek Range dates back to the 1870's with the formation of the Cherry Creek Mining District. A portion of the mining district extends into the southern portion of the WSA. Past production from the district is reported at $4.8 million since reporting was instituted (1902), and before that $6 million to $20 million in production is estimated. Minerals produced include gold, silver, lead, and copper.

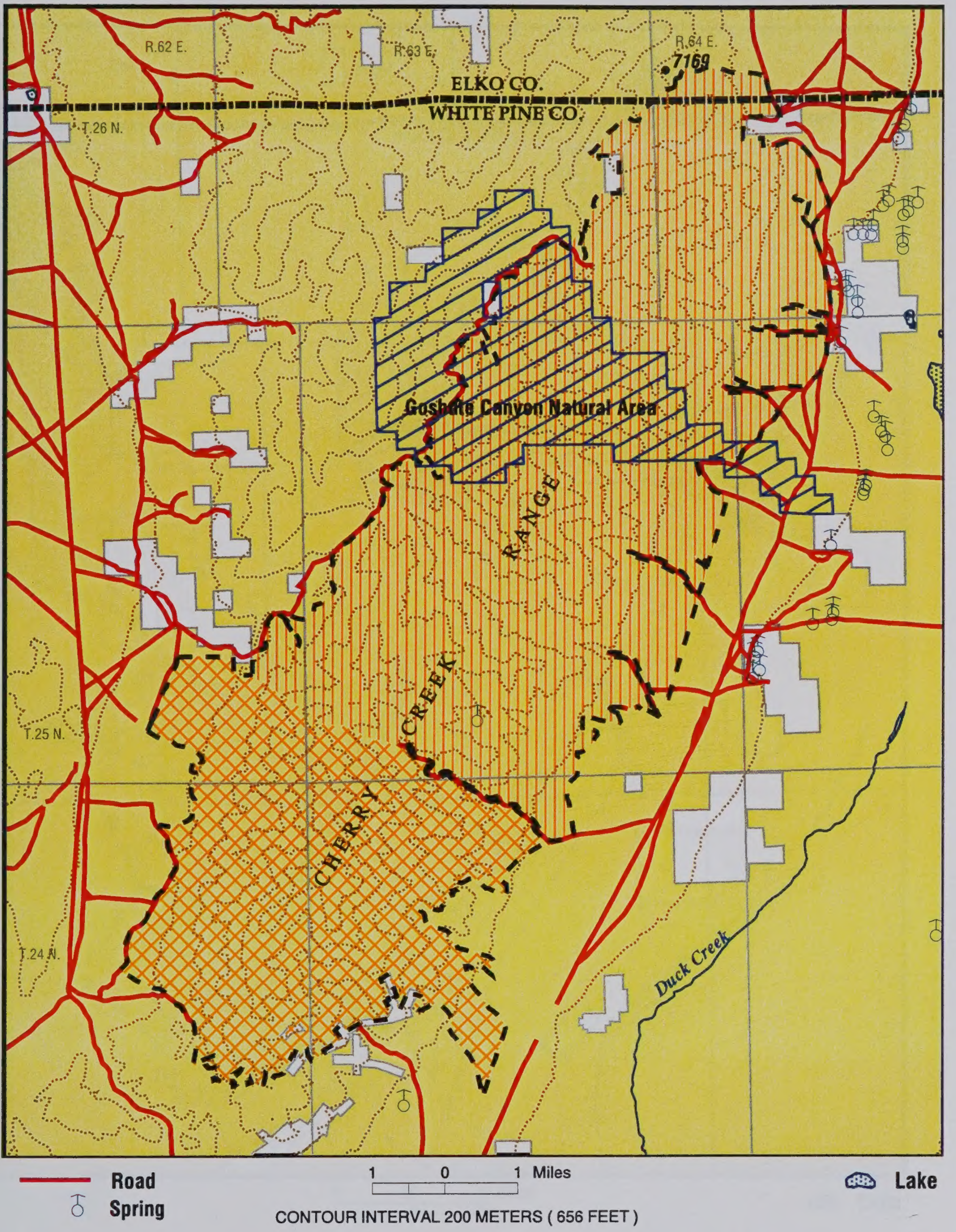
6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report a total of 59 comments were received specifically addressing the Goshute Canyon WSA. In general, 52 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA and six commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA. Comments supporting wilderness designation cited the high scenic qualities, outstanding recreation opportunities, botanical, archaeological and speleological values and the presence of the Goshute Canyon Natural Area. Comments opposing wilderness mentioned mineral and energy potential and the existing mining along the southern boundary. Two commentors took no position on designation.

Throughout the wilderness process, concern was expressed that should the Goshute Canyon WSA be designated as wilderness, the designation could somehow negatively effect the proposed White Pine Power Project. The White Pine Regional Planning Commission, the City of Ely, and the White Pine County Commission opposed wilderness designation for this area for that reason. Since completion of the wilderness study, the White Pine Power Project has been dropped from consideration as a viable energy development due to decreased regional demand for electricity.

10/25/2000

Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP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7169
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
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T.25 N.
T.24 N.
Goshute Canyon Natural Area
CHERRY CREEK RANGE
Duck Creek
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
Lake

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

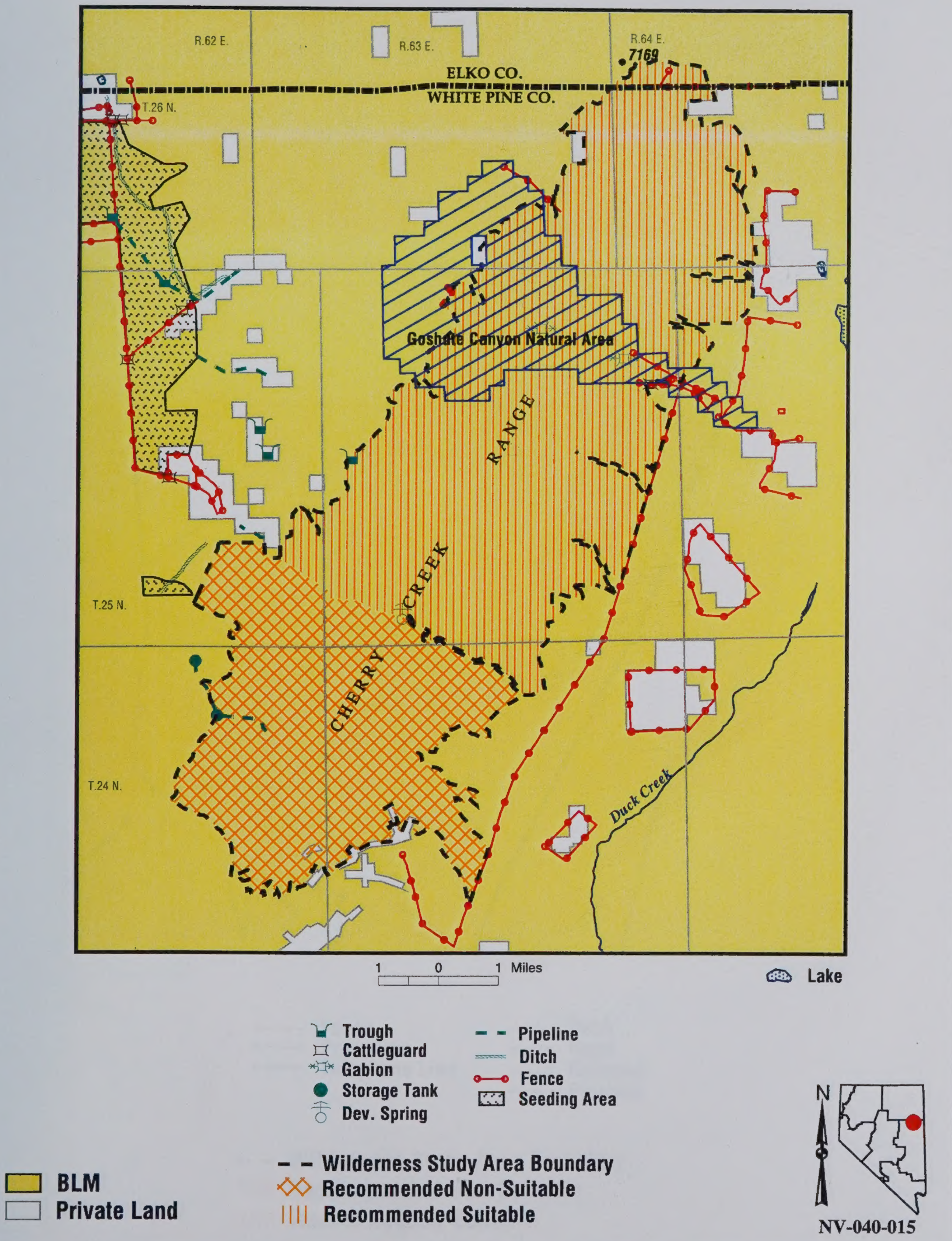
🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable
||||| Recommended Suitable

NV-040-015

Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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WHITE PINE CO.
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Goshute Canyon Natural Area
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CREEK
CHERRY
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T.24 N.
Duck Creek
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Lake
Trough
Cattleguard
Gabion
Storage Tank
Dev. Spring
Pipeline
Ditch
Fence
Seeding Area
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
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Private Land
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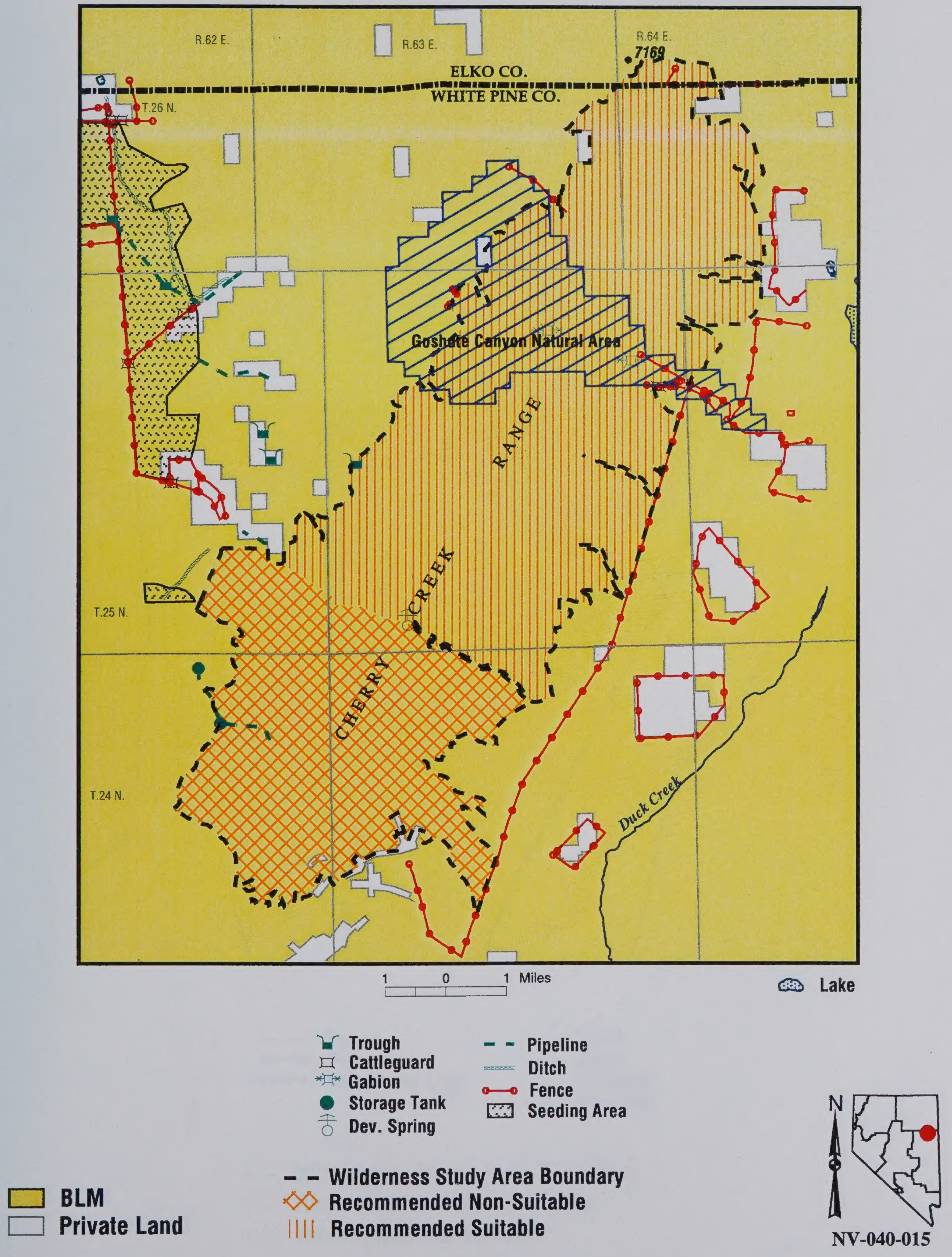
10/25/2000

Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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Goshute Canyon Natural Area
CHERRY CREEK RANGE
Duck Creek
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Storage Tank
Dev. Spring
Pipeline
Ditch
Fence
Seeding Area
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
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Private Land
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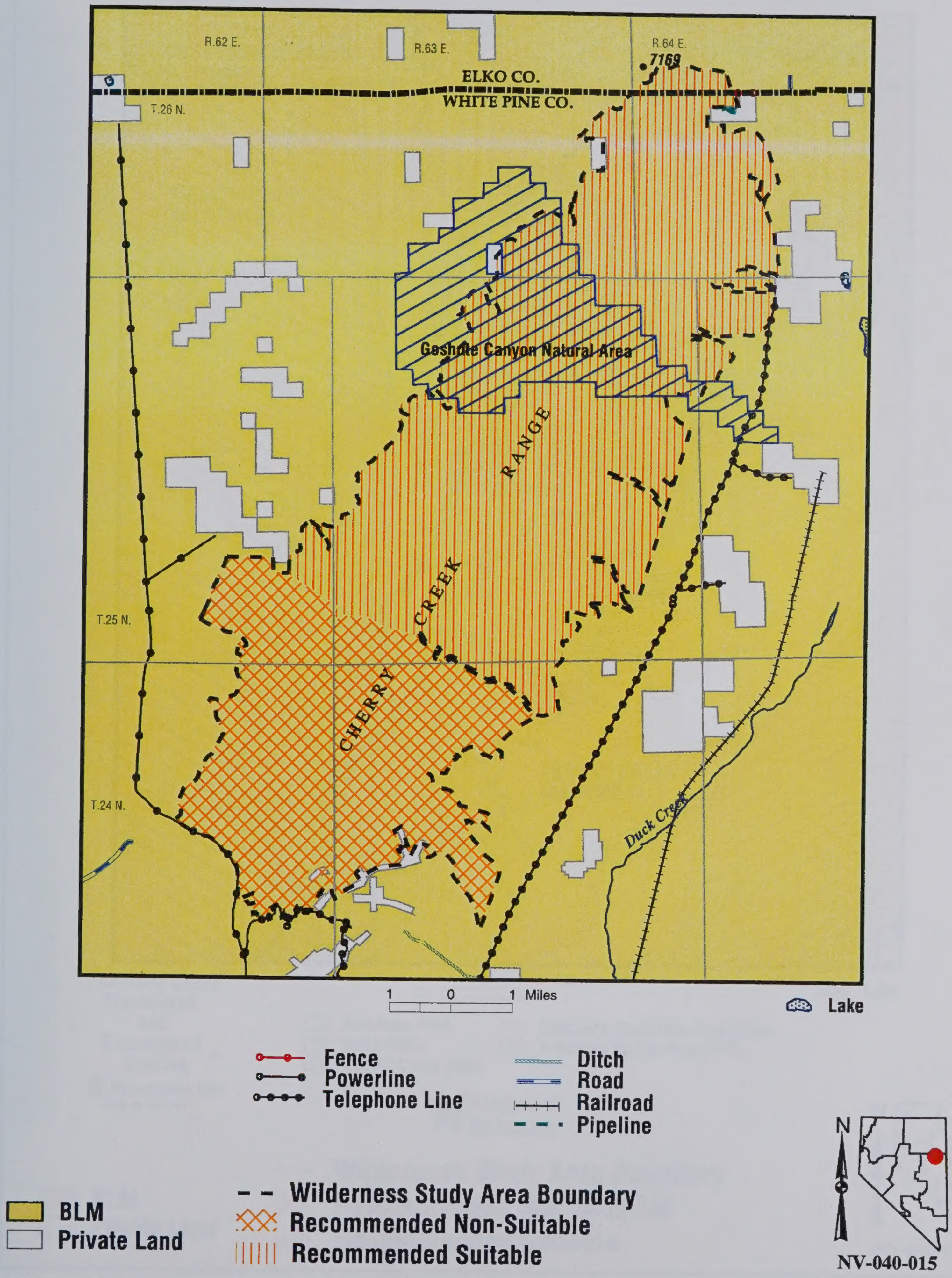
NV-040-015

Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY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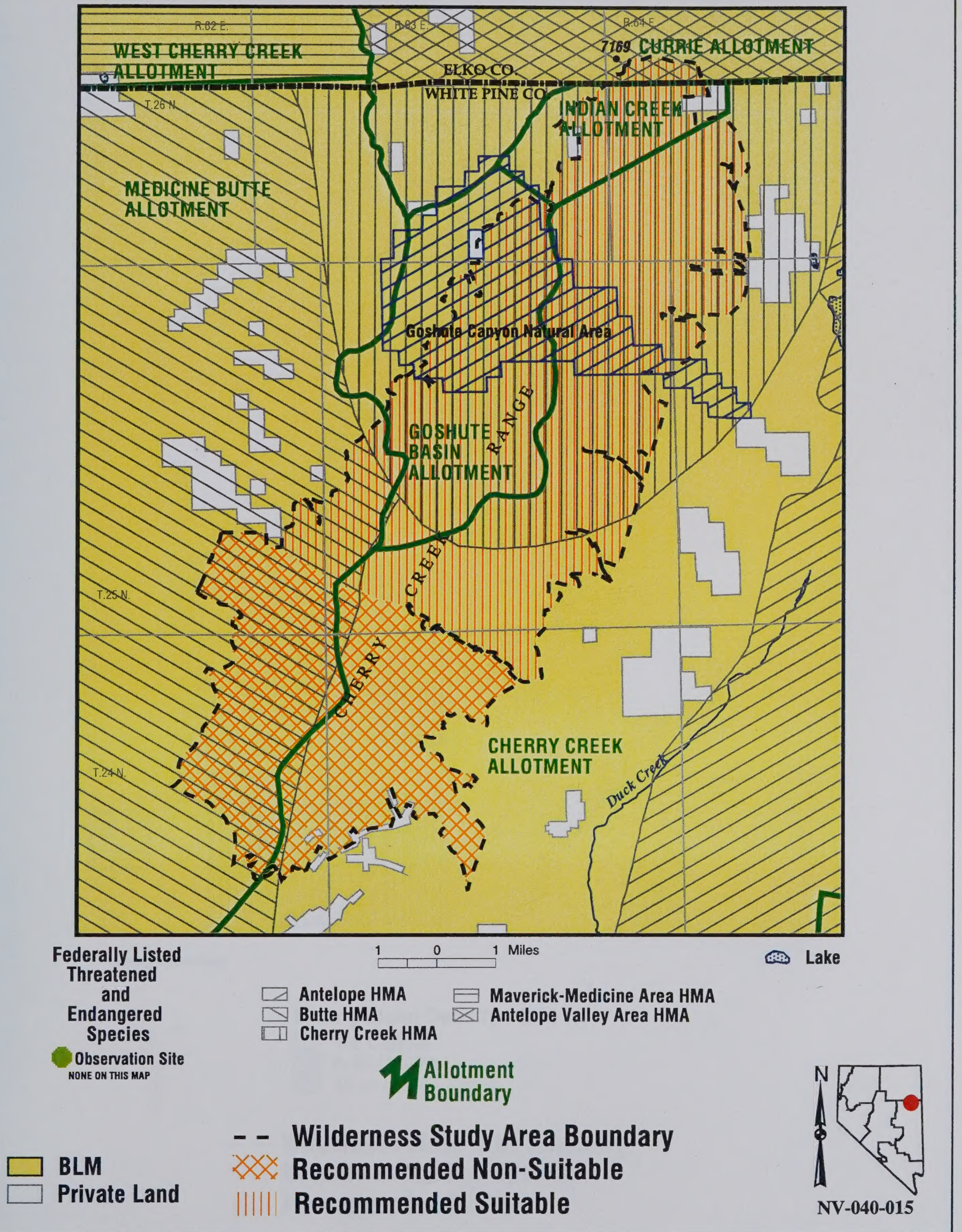
WHITE PINE CO.
T.26 N.
T.25 N.
T.24 N.
Goshute Canyon Natural Area
CHERRY CREEK RANGE
Duck Creek
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Fence
Powerline
Telephone Line
Ditch
Road
Railroad
Pipeline
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-040-015

10/25/2000

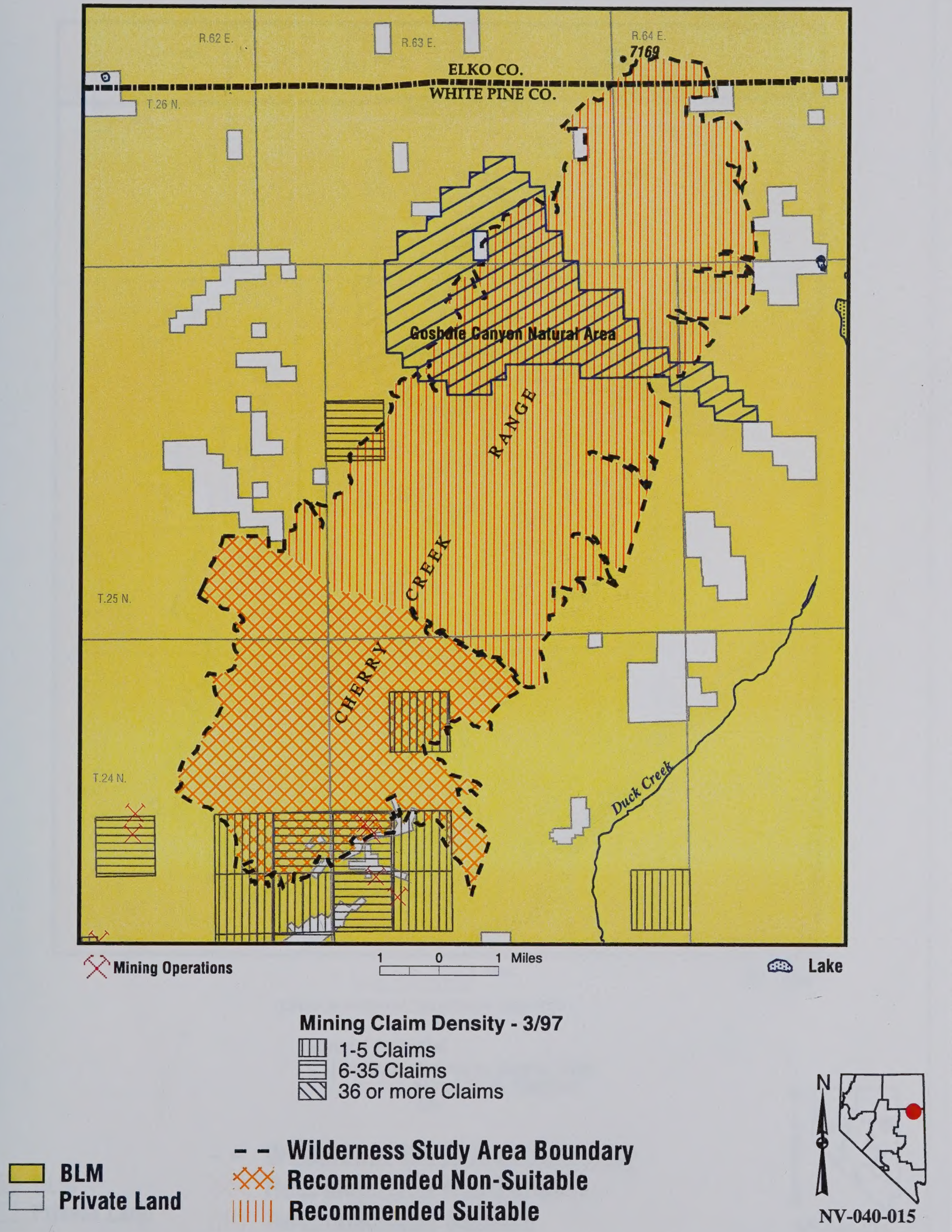
Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
WEST CHERRY CREEK ALLOTMENT
7169
CURRIE ALLOTMENT
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
T.26 N.
INDIAN CREEK ALLOTMENT
MEDICINE BUTTE ALLOTMENT
Goshute Canyon Natural Area
GOSHUTE BASIN ALLOTMENT
RANGE
CREEK
CHERRY
T.25 N.
T.24 N.
CHERRY CREEK ALLOTMENT
Duck Creek
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Antelope HMA
Butte HMA
Cherry Creek HMA
Maverick-Medicine Area HMA
Antelope Valley Area HMA
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-040-015

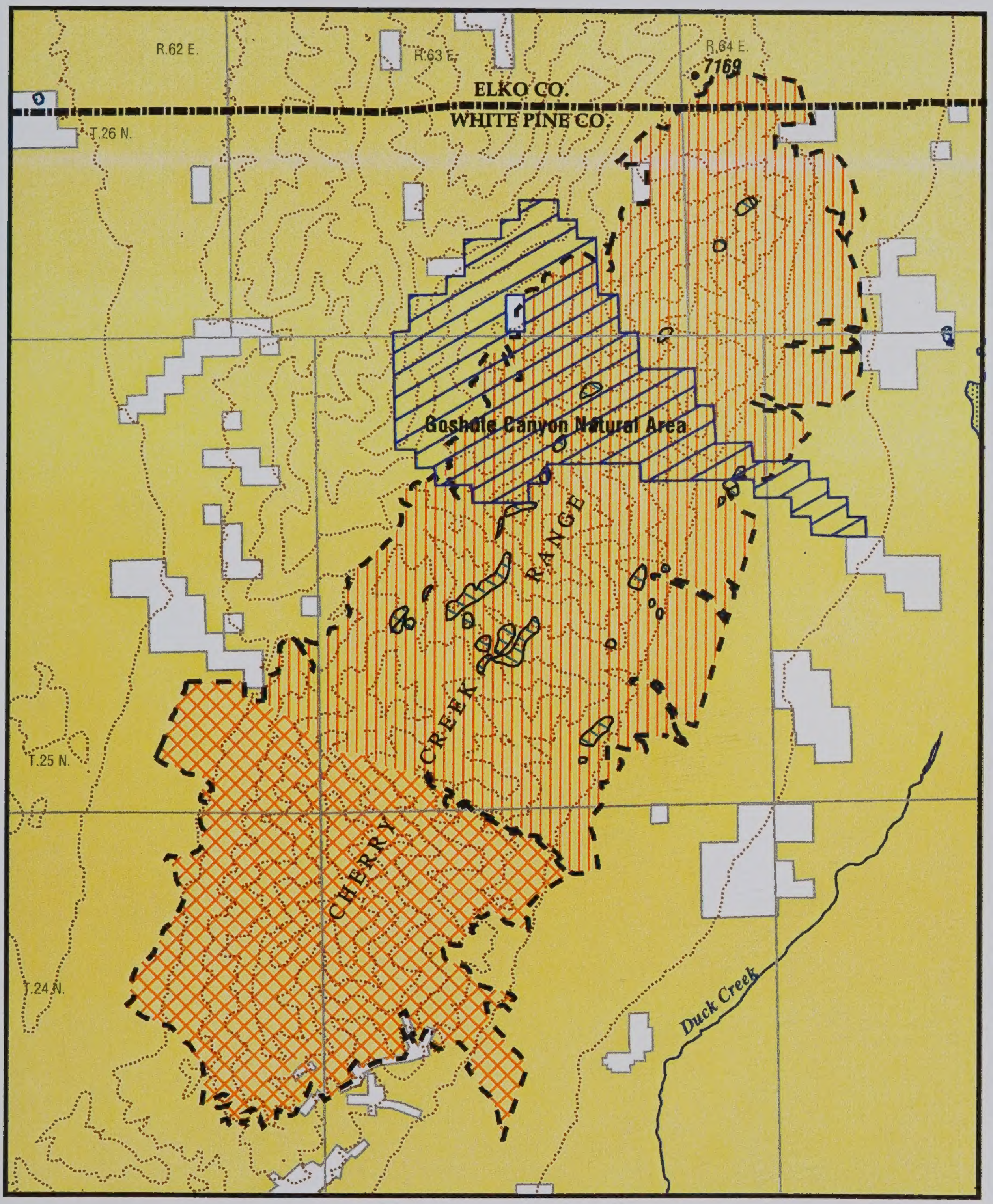
10/25/2000

Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
7169
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
T.26 N.
T.25 N.
T.24 N.
Goshute Canyon Natural Area
CHERRY CREEK RANGE
Duck Creek
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
▥ 1-5 Claims
▤ 6-35 Claims
▧ 36 or more Claims
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-015

10/25/2000

Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
7169
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
T.26 N.
T.25 N.
T.24 N.
Goshute Canyon Natural Area
CHERRY CREEK RANGE
Duck Creek

1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Lake

Mineral Potential

▨ **Medium - Antimony, Copper, Gold, Silver, Lead, Tungston, Zinc**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

Recommended Non-Suitable

||||| Recommended Suitable

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

NV-040-015

MARBLE CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 12,715 acres

The Marble Canyon WSA (NV-040-086) is located approximately 30 air miles northeast of Ely near the Utah border north of Mt. Moriah in White Pine County. The entire WSA is comprised of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management with no private inholdings. The WSA is approximately 5 miles long and 8 miles wide. The total acreage discussed in this report is reduced from original study acreage of19,150 acres due to designation of 6,435 acres as wilderness. On December 5, 1989, President Bush signed into law the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989. The 82,000-acre Mt. Moriah Wilderness Area included 6,435 acres of Bureau-administered lands located in the WSA. The acreage already designated as wilderness is excluded from remainder of this report. Although the designated boundary was similar to the recommendation of this report there are 1,865 acres still remaining within the Bureau's original proposed wilderness recommendation that were not designated as wilderness.

The boundary of the WSA is formed entirely by dirt roads with the exception of a 7-mile portion on the south which is contiguous with the Humboldt National Forest. The Marble Wash and Coyote Canyon Roads form the northern boundary of the WSA while the western boundary is formed by a series of inter-connected jeep trails which traverse the ridge between Coyote Canyon and the upper reaches of Bars Canyon. The boundary road crosses Sage Flat in the southern portion of the WSA and connects to the administrative boundary of the Humboldt National Forest which comprises the southern boundary. The eastern boundary of the WSA is formed by a jeep trail which traverses the upper portion of the alluvial bench between Smith Creek Canyon on the south and Marble Wash on the north.

Topographically, the study area is a complex array of canyons, jumbled peaks, and drainages, dotted with juniper, pinyon pine and mountain mahogany. The highest point in the area, Thunder Mountain (9,331 feet), is located on a long ridge that crosses the study area's center. The ridge supports Douglas fir, white fir, bristlecone pine and limber pine.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 1,865 acres recommended for wilderness 10,850 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the Marble Canyon WSA is to designate 1,865 additional acres as wilderness and release 10,850 acres for uses other than wilderness.

A portion of the Marble Canyon WSA was recommended for wilderness because of its pristine qualities, archaeological and geological values, lack of conflicting resource uses, and its contiguous location to the established BLM wilderness unit. The additional acres will provide a more manageable boundary than currently exists.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The majority of the WSA is in an extremely natural condition. Much of the area is rugged and has impeded most development attempts. Man-made intrusions include a 1-mile fence in the northeast corner, an abandoned concrete trough in Christmas Wash and a corral at the mouth of a drainage within Marble Canyon.

Three short ways, each totaling less than 1 mile, and four cherry stemmed roads totalling 3 miles are located along the eastern boundary of the WSA. The presence of the roads and ways along the eastern bench detracts very little from the naturalness of the area. In addition, one short cherrystemmed road accesses an unsuccessful water development at the base of Thunder Mountain .

Minor quarrying for marble has taken place along Marble and Bars Canyons, and several small quarry scars and areas of blasted rubble exist in these rocky canyons. These disturbances are visible only in their immediate vicinity and essentially blend in with natural surroundings. Aside from these intrusions, the area appears to be untrammeled by man and his works.

B. Solitude: The rugged topographic features of the Marble Canyon WSA insure outstanding opportunities for solitude. The northern and central region of the WSA is characterized by sparsely forested plateaus and divides cut by massive canyons. The impressive Bars Canyon, slices through the unit and its limestone and marble walls drop nearly 800 feet to the canyon's floor. Major side canyons equally as deep branch off and wander for additional miles. Each turn of these tortuous canyons isolate the visitor further and further. The cliffs are pocketed with shelter caves, expansive ledges, and huge natural amphitheaters. Other major canyons, including Marble and Coyote Canyons, have similar topographic isolation. Vegetative screening varies throughout the WSA. Pockets of white fir, Douglas fir, bristlecone pine, limber pine, and mountain mahogany are found at higher elevations on most of the ridges within the WSA. The broad, low-sage covered plateau, nestled between the two main arms of Bar Canyon in the southwest corner of the study area, and the sparsely vegetated east bench are the only areas where opportunities for solitude would be diminished.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Recreational opportunities in the Marble Canyon WSA are very good and quite varied, but are not considered outstanding. Most recreational use would be concentrated along Bars and Marble Canyons, the forested ridgelines, and the sage plateau in the southwest portion.

Camping, hiking, cave exploration, climbing, and horseback opportunities are excellent within the major canyons. Sandy canyon bottoms provide travel routes to numerous scenic camping spots and shelter caves. For more hardy explorers, the tremendous range of cliff faces afford innumerable climbing opportunities. The canyon rims offer protected pockets of coniferous forests as cool, moist retreats from the canyon's heat. Photographic subject matter ranges from dramatic rock arches and gnarled bristlecone pines to stooping prairie falcons and ancient pictographs.

Wildlife related recreational activities such as bird watching, wildlife studies, and photography are all very good, but hunting and trapping opportunities are limited. The cliffs host populations of raptors, including golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and great horned owls, as well as numerous smaller birds such as swallows, chickadees and towhees. A varied but low population of mammals, including ringtail cats, mountain lions, kit foxes, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and antelope can be seen in the WSA.

D. Special Features: The WSA contains abundant bird populations, Bristlecone pines, unique geologic features and cultural resource such as pictographs, rock shelters and open campsites.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The entire Marble Canyon WSA is manageable as wilderness. The ruggedness of the area, the continued very low visitation it is likely to receive, lack of conflicting potential uses, and the absence of private inholdings mean that no major impediment to management of the area as wilderness would occur. In addition, the entire WSA's boundaries are easily identified roads.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment report for the Marble Canyon WSA in 1989, (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1731-F). Thrusted Paleozoic marine sediments are flanked by Tertiary volcanic outcrops in the northeastern part of the WSA and alluvial materials to the east, north and west. The predominant rock type in the area is limestone.

The entire Marble Canyon WSA is classified as having a low favorability for metallic minerals. The northeast portion of the WSA has been rated as having a moderate to high potential for marble, which is low grade and suitable for crushed decorative stone. The marble potential area includes approximately 1,915 acres with high potential and about 5,745 acres with moderate potential. Minor marble quarrying has taken place in the past, however, there is no recorded production of marble within the WSA. No known oil and gas, geothermal, uranium or thorium deposits occur within the WSA

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments received during the inventory process and early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and various alternatives for management of those lands with wilderness values.

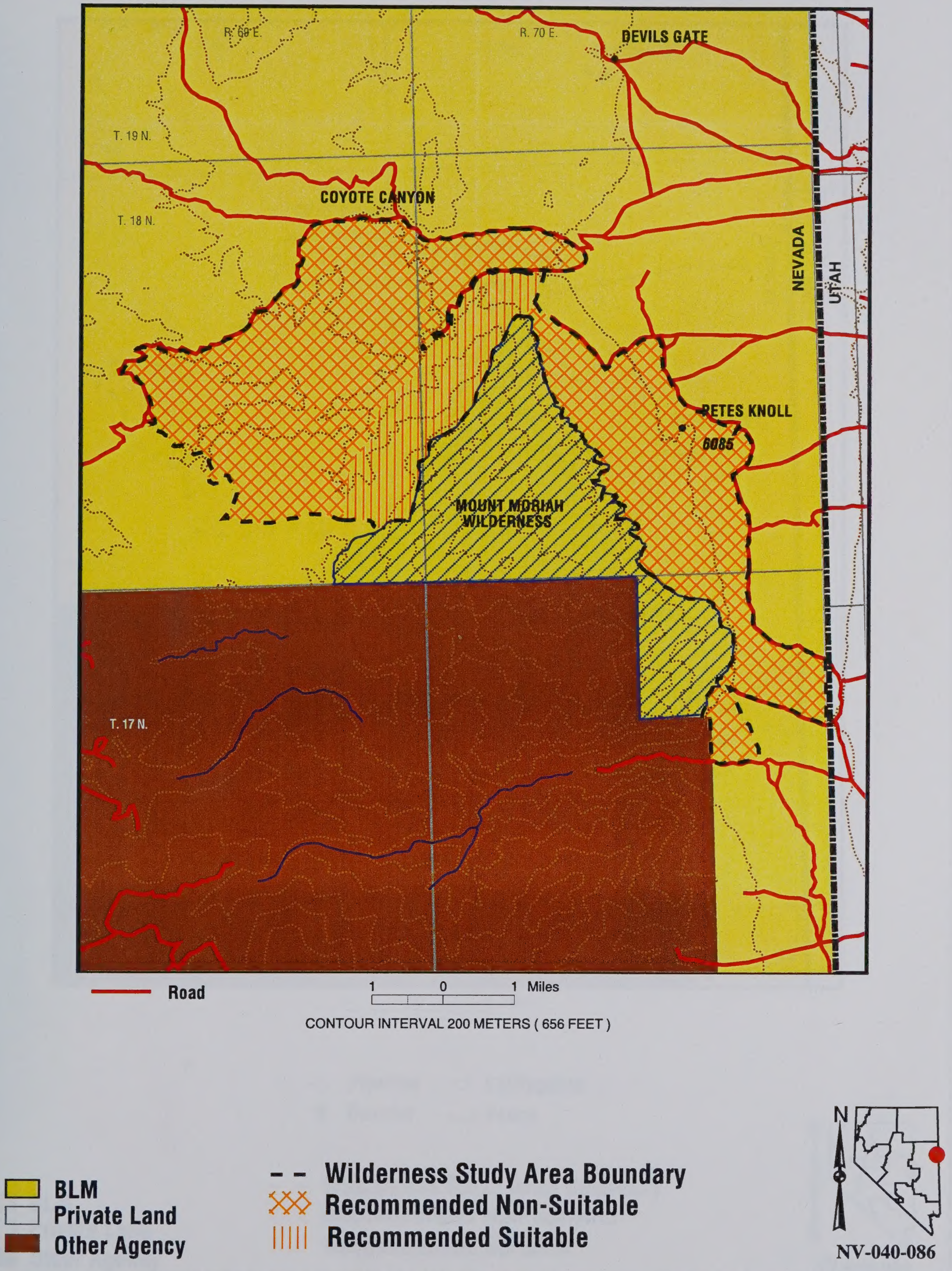
During public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between June and September, 1988, a total of nine comments were received specifically addressing the Marble Canyon. In general, five commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA and the remaining four commentors mentioned the Marble Canyon, but took no formal position on wilderness designation. Those favoring wilderness commented on the area's scenic nature and location next to the Mount Moriah unit of the Humboldt National Forest which at that time was proposed for wilderness.

The following federal agencies reviewed the EIS but expressed no specific comments on the Marble Canyon WSA: Department of Energy, National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Fish and Wildlife Service supported the wilderness recommendation for the area and the Bureau of Mines stated that high quality limestone could occur in the WSA as well as the potential for precious and base minerals. The State of Nevada concurred with the wilderness proposal for the Marble Canyon area.

10/25/2000

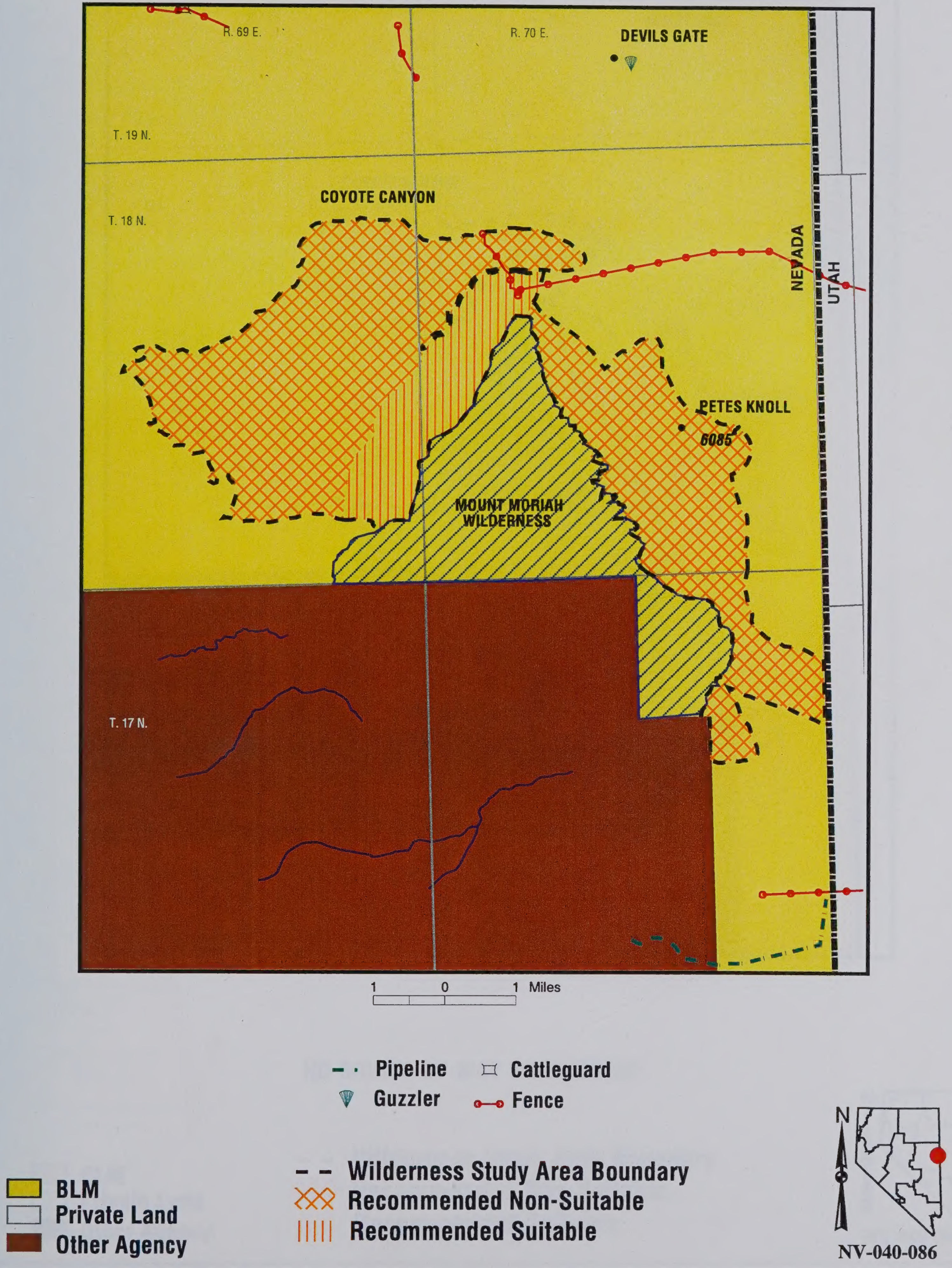
Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R. 69 E.
R. 70 E.
DEVILS GATE
T. 19 N.
T. 18 N.
COYOTE CANYON
NEVADA
UTAH
PETES KNOLL
6085
MOUNT MORIAH WILDERNESS
T. 17 N.
Road
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-086

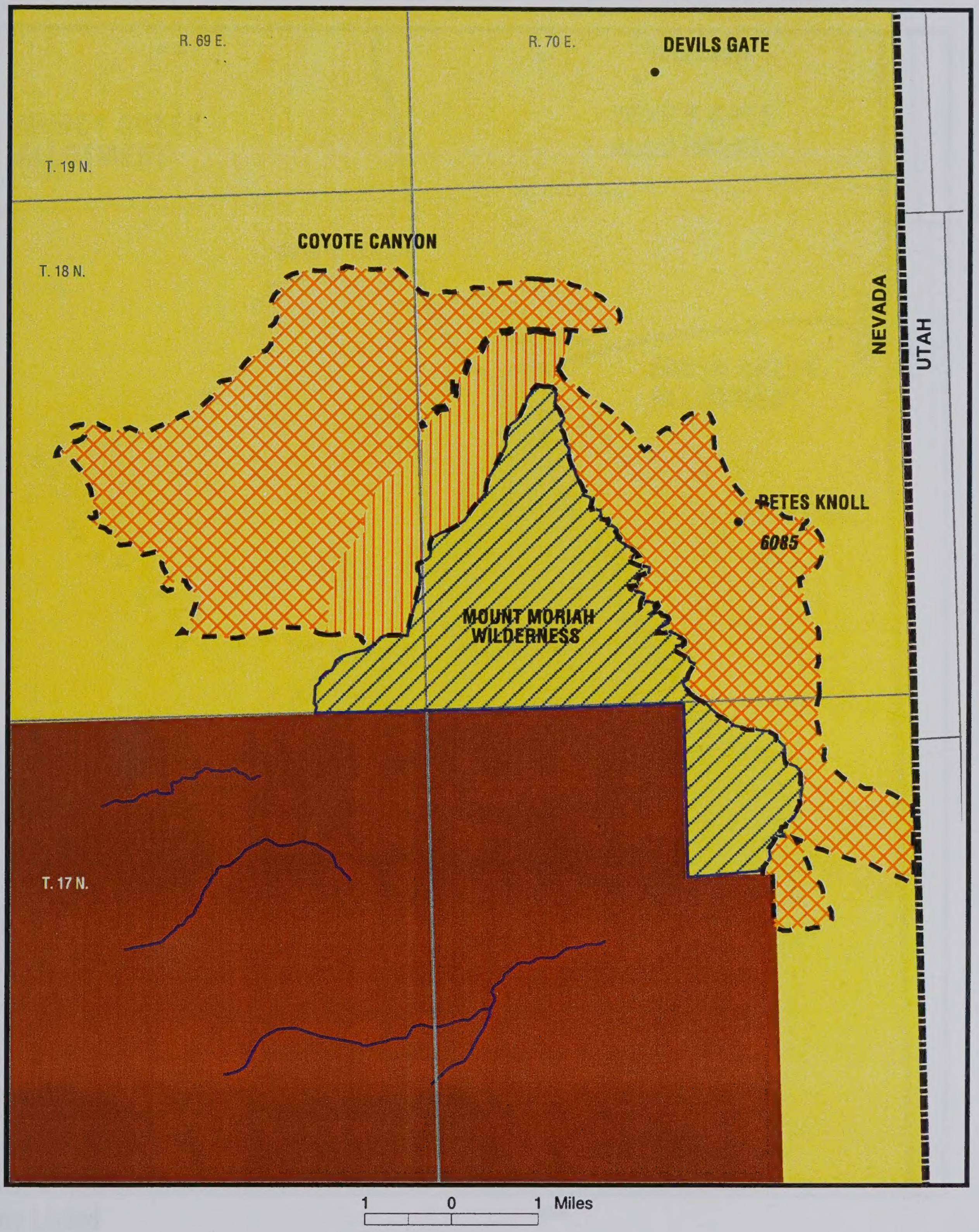
Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R. 69 E.
R. 70 E.
DEVILS GATE
T. 19 N.
T. 18 N.
COYOTE CANYON
NEVADA
UTAH
PETES KNOLL
6085
MOUNT MORIAH WILDERNESS
T. 17 N.
1 0 1 Miles
Pipeline
Cattleguard
Guzzler
Fence
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
N
NV-040-086

Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R. 69 E.
R. 70 E.
DEVILS GATE
T. 19 N.
COYOTE CANYON
T. 18 N.
NEVADA
UTAH
PETES KNOLL
6085
MOUNT MORIAH WILDERNESS
T. 17 N.
1 0 1 Miles

NO RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟫 **Other Agency**

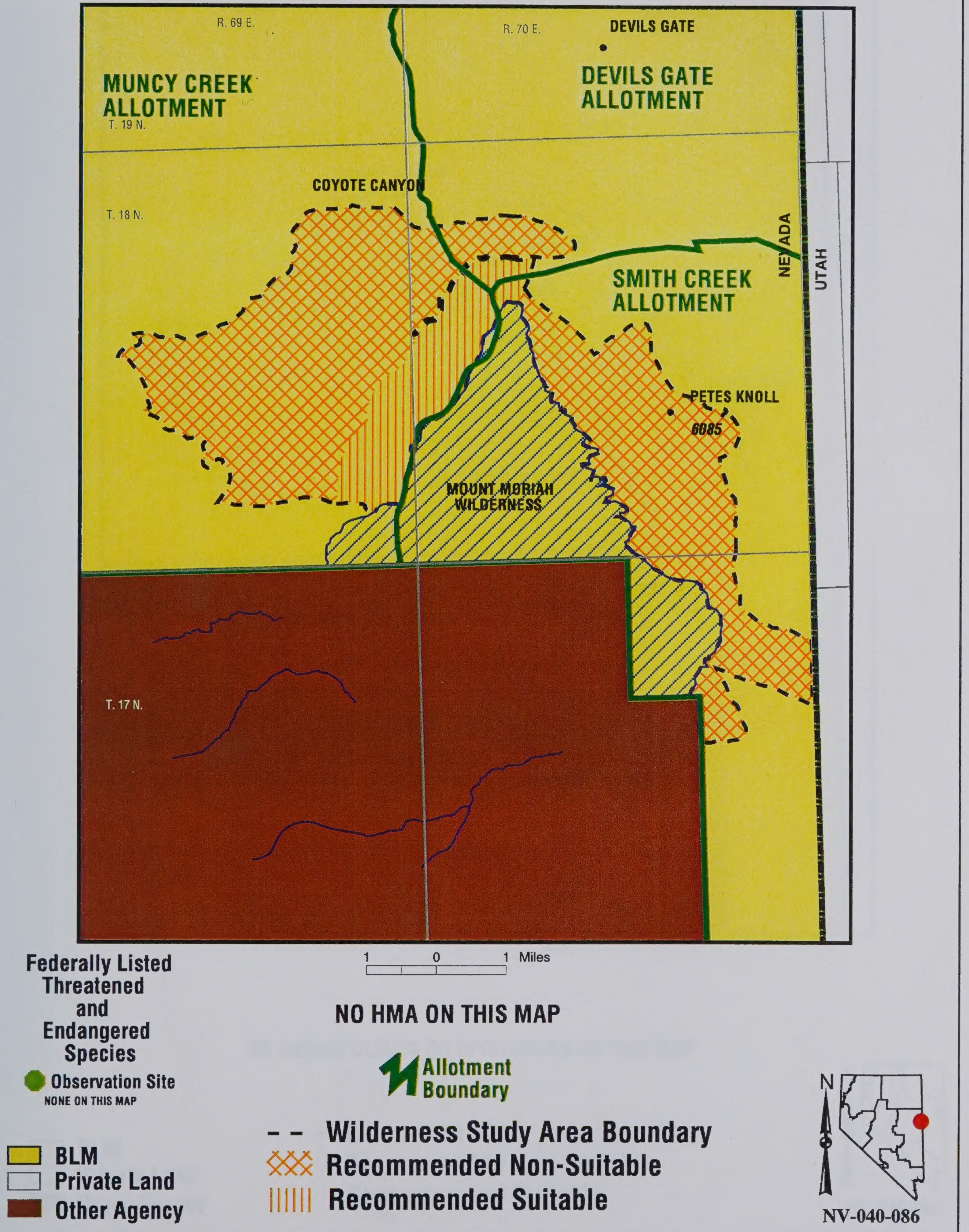
- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**
||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-086

10/25/2000

Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area

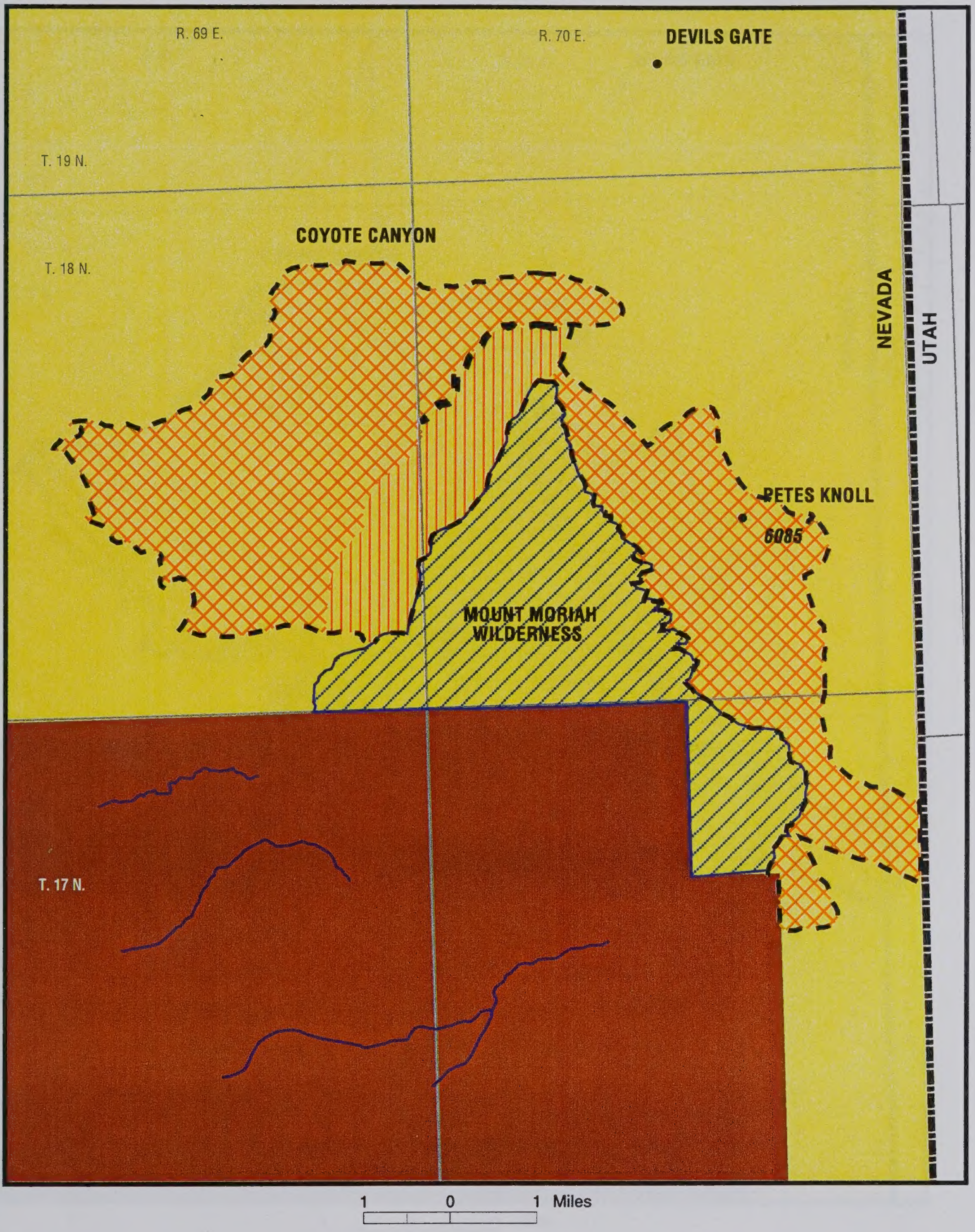
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R. 69 E.
R. 70 E.
DEVILS GATE
MUNCY CREEK ALLOTMENT
DEVILS GATE ALLOTMENT
T. 19 N.
COYOTE CANYON
T. 18 N.
NEVADA
UTAH
SMITH CREEK ALLOTMENT
PETES KNOLL
6085
MOUNT MORIAH WILDERNESS
T. 17 N.
1
0
1
Miles
NO HMA ON THIS MAP
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
N
NV-040-086

10/25/2000

Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R. 69 E.
R. 70 E.
DEVILS GATE
T. 19 N.
COYOTE CANYON
T. 18 N.
NEVADA
UTAH
PETES KNOLL
6085
MOUNT MORIAH WILDERNESS
T. 17 N.
1 0 1 Miles

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

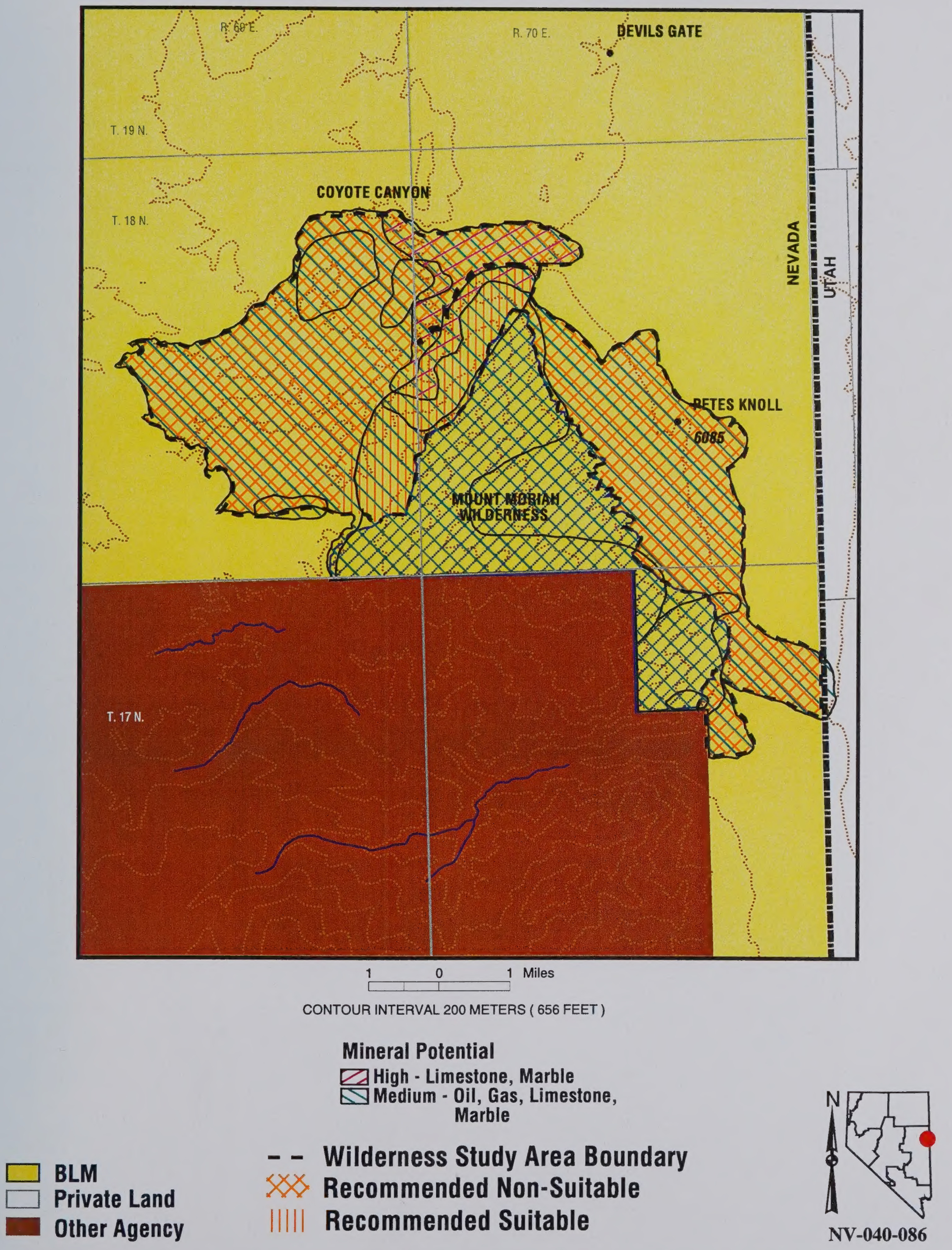
🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**
||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-086

10/25/2000

Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R. 69 E.
R. 70 E.
DEVILS GATE
T. 19 N.
COYOTE CANYON
T. 18 N.
NEVADA
UTAH
PETES KNOLL
6085
MOUNT MORIAH WILDERNESS
T. 17 N.
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Mineral Potential
▨ High - Limestone, Marble
▨ Medium - Oil, Gas, Limestone, Marble
🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
🟥 Other Agency
– – Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable
|||| Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-086

PARK RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 47,268 acres

The Park Range WSA (NV-040-154) is located in Nye County approximately 50 miles southeast of Eureka and 110 miles southwest of Ely. The entire WSA is comprised of public land with no private inholdings. Approximately 1 mile of the southern boundary is formed by private land containing the historic Pritchard's Station, an old stagecoach stop. The remainder of the WSA is bounded by dirt roads of variable quality. The northern boundary is formed by the Big Fault Wash Road which turns into the Hick's Station Road along the west side and then into the Luther Waddles Wash Road to the south. The east side of the WSA is bounded by the road through Pritchard's Canyon and the Summit Station Road.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 47,268 acres recommended for wilderness
0 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The Park Range was recommended for wilderness because of its pristine qualities, unique high meadows and volcanic spires, archaeological and historical values, lack of conflicting resource uses, and nearly unanimous public support. The Park Range is an ideal candidate for designation because it has very high wilderness values and few values would be foregone as a result of designation. It would also be easily managed as wilderness because of the rugged terrain, remoteness, and absence of complicating factors such as private inholdings or mineral reserves.

The remote and fairly unknown Park Range is in a remarkably natural condition. Numerous pristine spring-fed meadows scattered throughout the range seem to hang in basins surrounded by volcanic towers. Inaccessible to livestock and vehicles yet easily climbed by a hiker, these ungrazed meadows are unique in Nevada and offer the naturalist a remarkable living laboratory in diverse ecosystems and natural habitats. Unlimited exploration opportunities and nearly complete escape from signs of man are the hallmark of the Park Range WSA and led to its recommendation.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The Park Range is in an extraordinarily natural condition. The high meadows and volcanic cliffs show only the sign of prehistoric man. The few unnatural features in the area are confined to the low-lying, more accessible benchlands, and are not noticeable except in their immediate vicinity. These feature include eight infrequently used two-track routes averaging perhaps a mile and a half in length, portion of two fences and one pipeline, two rustic, historic corrals and an old cabin. In addition, there are 40 acres of a crested wheatgrass seeding within several drainages along the WSA's western boundary.

B. Solitude: The Park Range WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are few places in Nevada which are more remote and less used than the Park Range; and there are also few places of its size more physically diverse, possessing better or more unusual natural features than the Park Range. This remarkable set of circumstances has resulted in an area where the opportunities to distance oneself from the evidence of man's work and be surrounded instead by the forces of nature are without rival.

The Park Range supports a dense forest of pinyon pine, juniper, and mountain mahogany and both the vegetation and the rugged topography provide excellent screening for users. Interspersed through the range are meadows perched high in the mountains, which although open; are remote and therefore offer solitude giving the visitor the feeling that he or she has discovered a "secluded spot."

Other features of the area contribute to different solitude experiences. The canyon draining Bassit Spring -

and several other canyons like it - are open enough to permit easy hiking yet contain enough vegetative and topographic screening and meander enough so that solitude is well assured even with numerous users.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** The abundance of water throughout the area makes all recreation activities more enjoyable, and extends the amount of time that one may enjoy the area. It also makes possible the large number of plant and animal species present. The Park Range is a very important nesting area for many raptors and the area sustains a great number of small mammals, reptiles and birds of prey. Species include the goshawk, prairie falcon, golden eagle, kestrel, and Cooper's hawk. Their presence in so pristine an area offers excellent opportunities for scientific observation, photography, and hunting. They also combine with the area's topographic diversity and naturalness to enhance the total recreational setting. Opportunities for recreation in this setting are incomparable and certainly outstanding.

D. **Special Features:** Several special features supplement the wilderness values of the Park Range, including high mountain meadows and archaeological values which hold great potential for scientific study. The upland meadows contain evidence of prehistoric occupation dating back to the Late Paleoindian period some 8,000 - 10,000 years ago. Knowledge of this period is scant and derives primarily from lowland settings across the Great Basin; thus the upland setting of the Park Range offers a very unique and scientifically important archaeological record that is uncommon within the Intermountain West. Wilderness Preservation System in Nevada.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The entire Park Range WSA is manageable as wilderness. The ruggedness of the area, continued very low visitation it is likely to receive, apparent lack of conflicting potential uses, and the absence of private inholdings mean that no major impediment to management of the area as wilderness would occur. In addition, the entire WSA's boundaries are easily identified roads.

A manageability concern is access to a small block of mining claims in the north end of the WSA by a mineral company. To date, limited exploration on these mining claims has not revealed the presence of a precious mineral deposit and no mineral production is anticipated .

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment report for the Park Range WSA in 1987, (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1731-F). With the exception of a small wedge of approximately 1,500 acres in the northwest tip of the WSA, the USGS and BM studies found the WSA to have a low potential for metallic minerals. This was based on the fact that the WSA consists largely of Tertiary volcanic rocks including lavas and ash-flow tufts having no sign of secondary silicification and hydrothermal alteration.

The mineral resource potential for undiscovered gold, silver, mercury and arsenic was identified as moderate for 1,500 acres in the northern tip of the WSA. This portion of the WSA consists of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks that have been faulted and silicified and contain anomalous concentrations of the above mentioned elements. A small claim block staked in 1985 by ASARCO were the only claims ever staked in the WSA.

The resource potential for oil and gas and geothermal energy was found to be low throughout the entire WSA based on lack of geologic evidence.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received

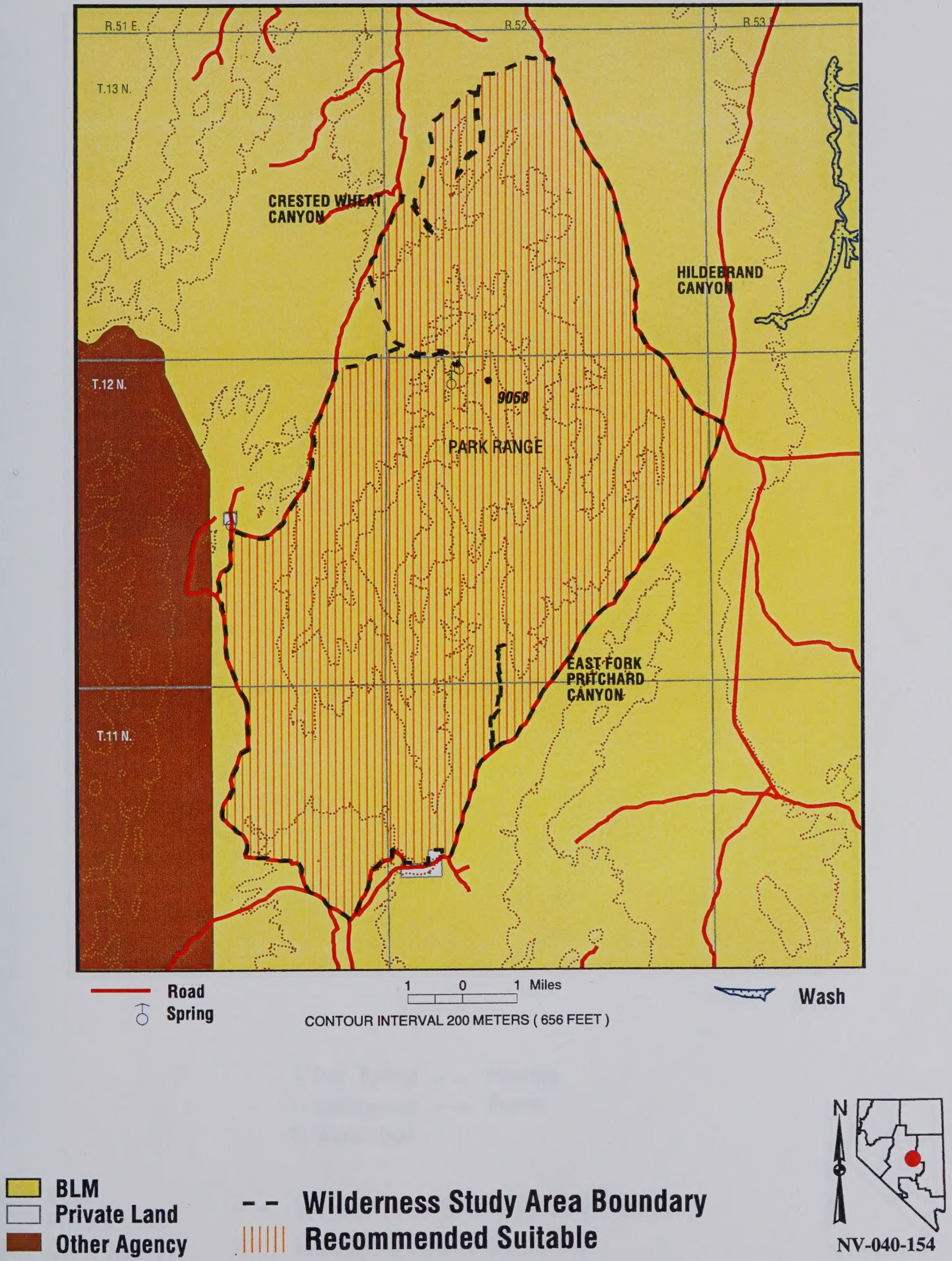
during the inventory process and early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and various alternatives for the ultimate management of those lands found to have wilderness values.

During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between September 23 to December 24, 1984, a total of 53 comments were received specifically addressing the Park Range. Of those, 45 were written comments and 8 were oral testimonies. In general, 50 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA. One commentor supported no wilderness for the WSA while two commentors took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the area's pristine meadows, scenic ruggedness, and wildlife habitat. The one commentor opposing wilderness designation was concerned about potential mineral and energy resources in the WSA.

10/25/2000

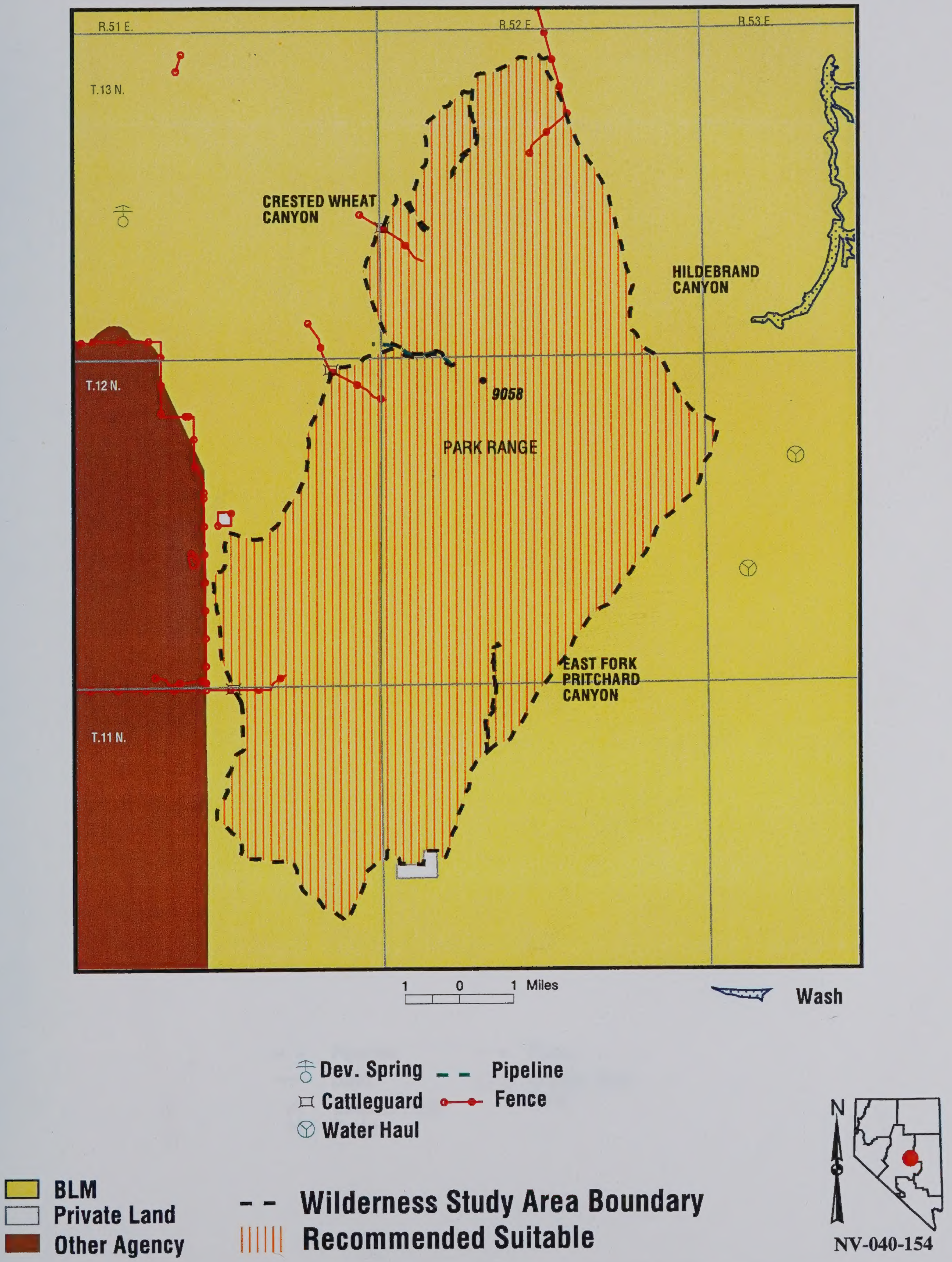
Park Range Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.51 E.
R.52 E.
R.53 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
CRESTED WHEAT CANYON
HILDEBRAND CANYON
9058
PARK RANGE
EAST FORK PRITCHARD CANYON
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Wash
N
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Suitable

NV-040-154

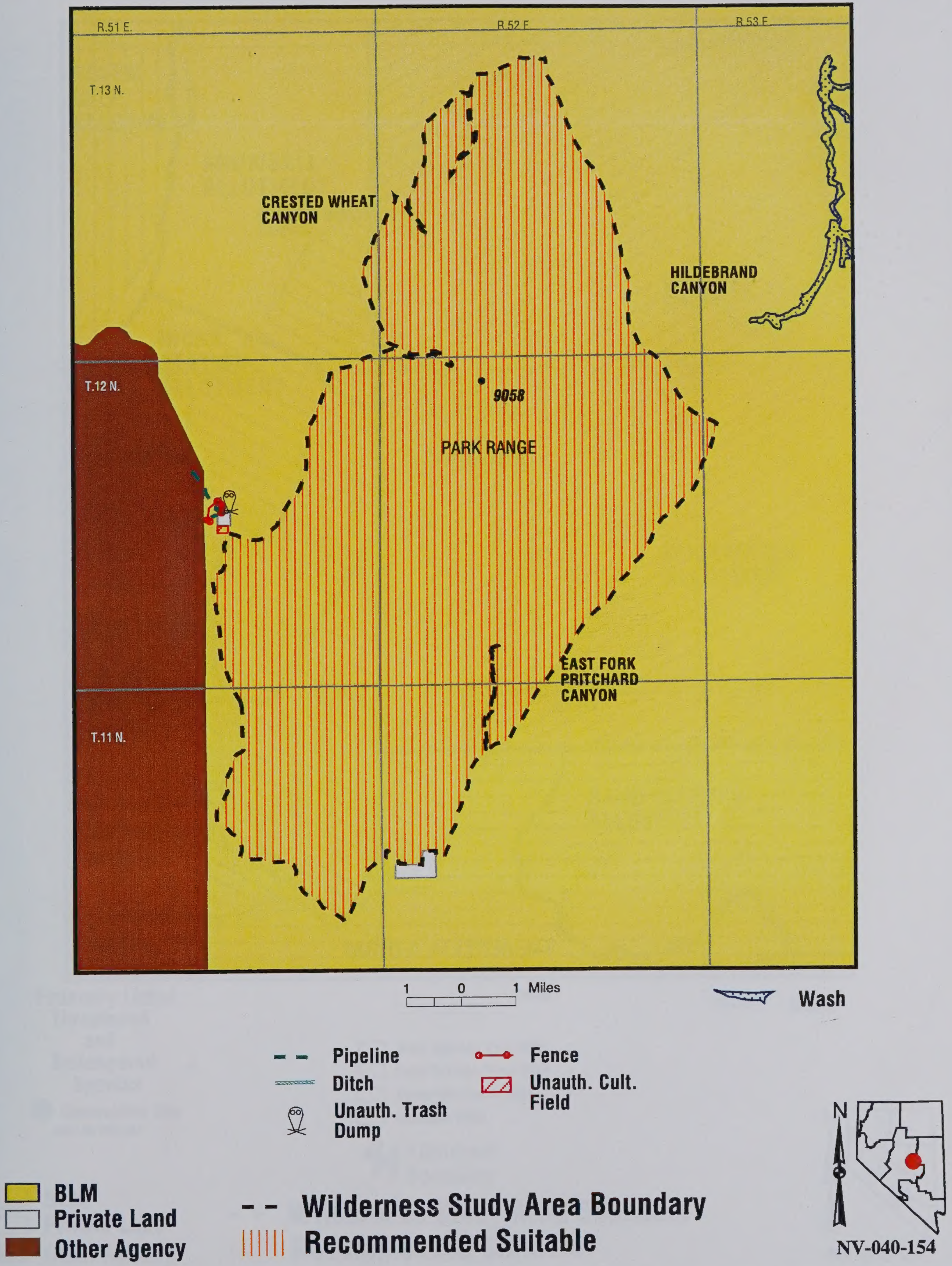
Park Range Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.51 E.
R.52 E.
R.53 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
CRESTED WHEAT CANYON
HILDEBRAND CANYON
9058
PARK RANGE
EAST FORK PRITCHARD CANYON
1 0 1 Miles
Wash
Dev. Spring
Pipeline
Cattleguard
Fence
Water Haul
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-154

10/25/2000

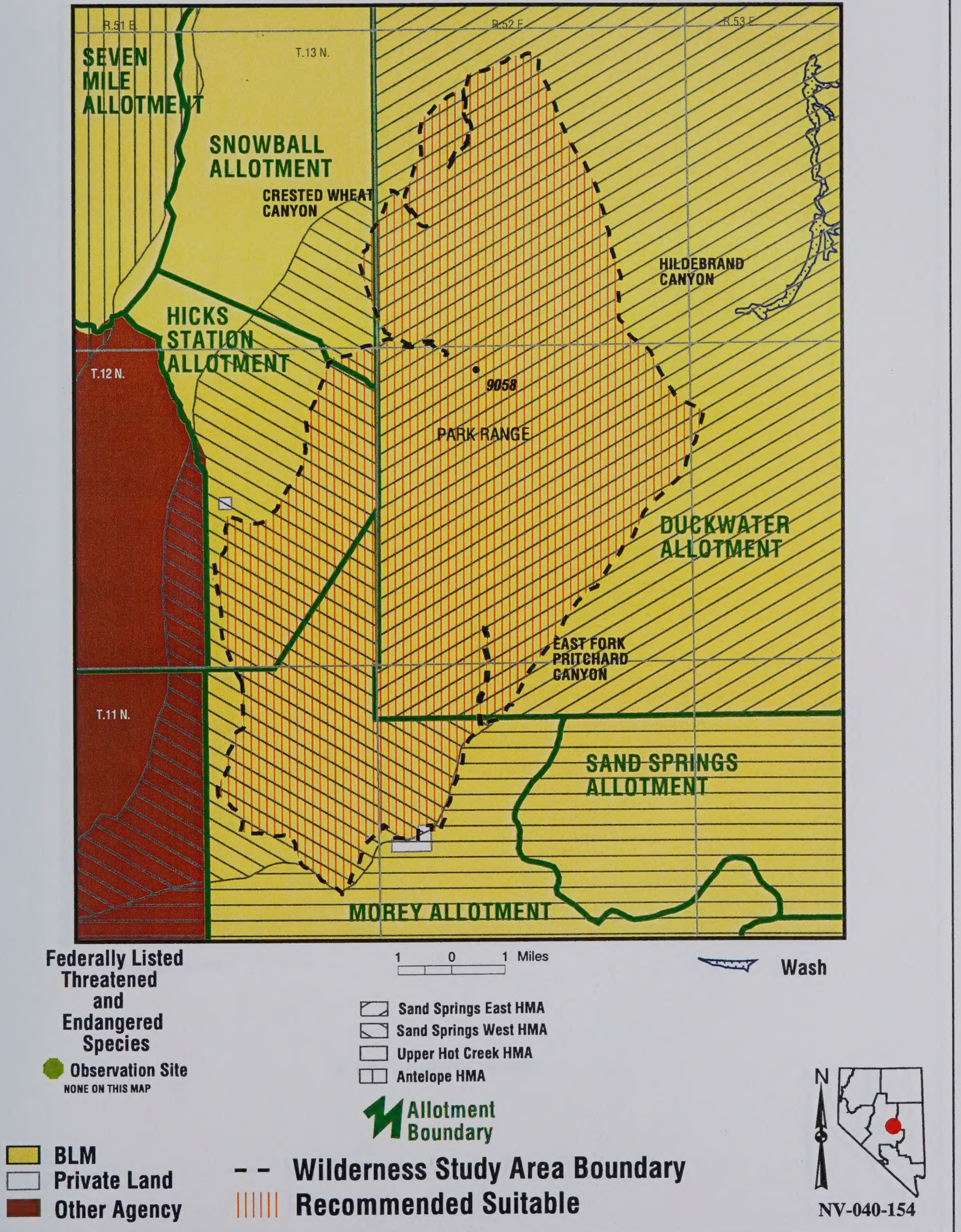
Park Range Wilderness Study Area
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.51 E.
R.52 E.
R.53 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
CRESTED WHEAT CANYON
HILDEBRAND CANYON
9058
PARK RANGE
EAST FORK PRITCHARD CANYON
1 0 1 Miles
Wash
Pipeline
Ditch
Unauth. Trash Dump
Fence
Unauth. Cult. Field
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-154

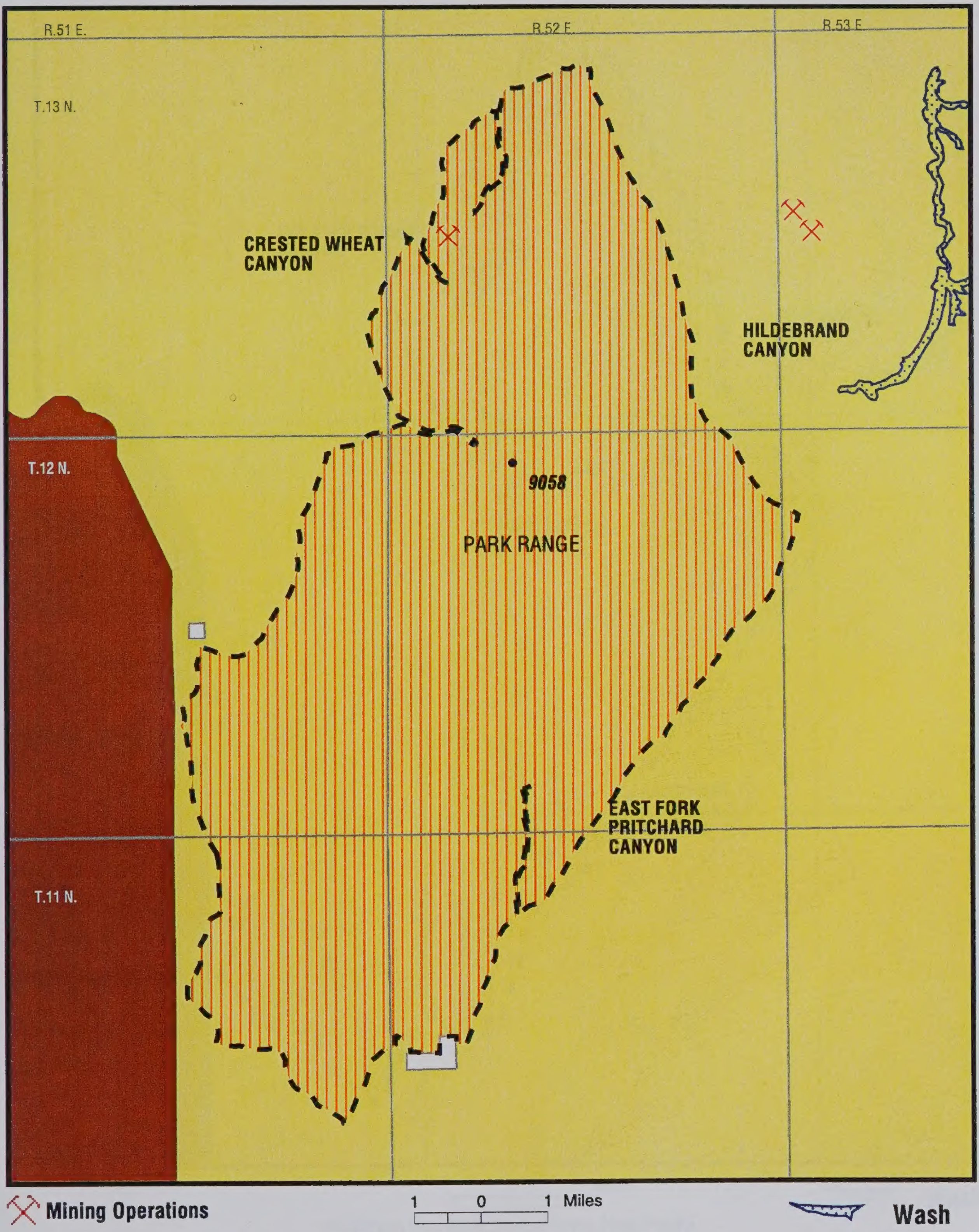
10/25/2000

Park Range Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.51 E.
R.52 E.
R.53 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
SEVEN MILE ALLOTMENT
SNOWBALL ALLOTMENT
CRESTED WHEAT CANYON
HICKS STATION ALLOTMENT
HILDEBRAND CANYON
9058
PARK RANGE
DUCKWATER ALLOTMENT
EAST FORK PRITCHARD CANYON
SAND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
MOREY ALLOTMENT
1 0 1 Miles
Wash
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Sand Springs East HMA
Sand Springs West HMA
Upper Hot Creek HMA
Antelope HMA
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-154

Park Range Wilderness Study Area
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.51 E.
R.52 E.
R.53 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
CRESTED WHEAT CANYON
HILDEBRAND CANYON
9058
PARK RANGE
EAST FORK PRITCHARD CANYON
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Wash

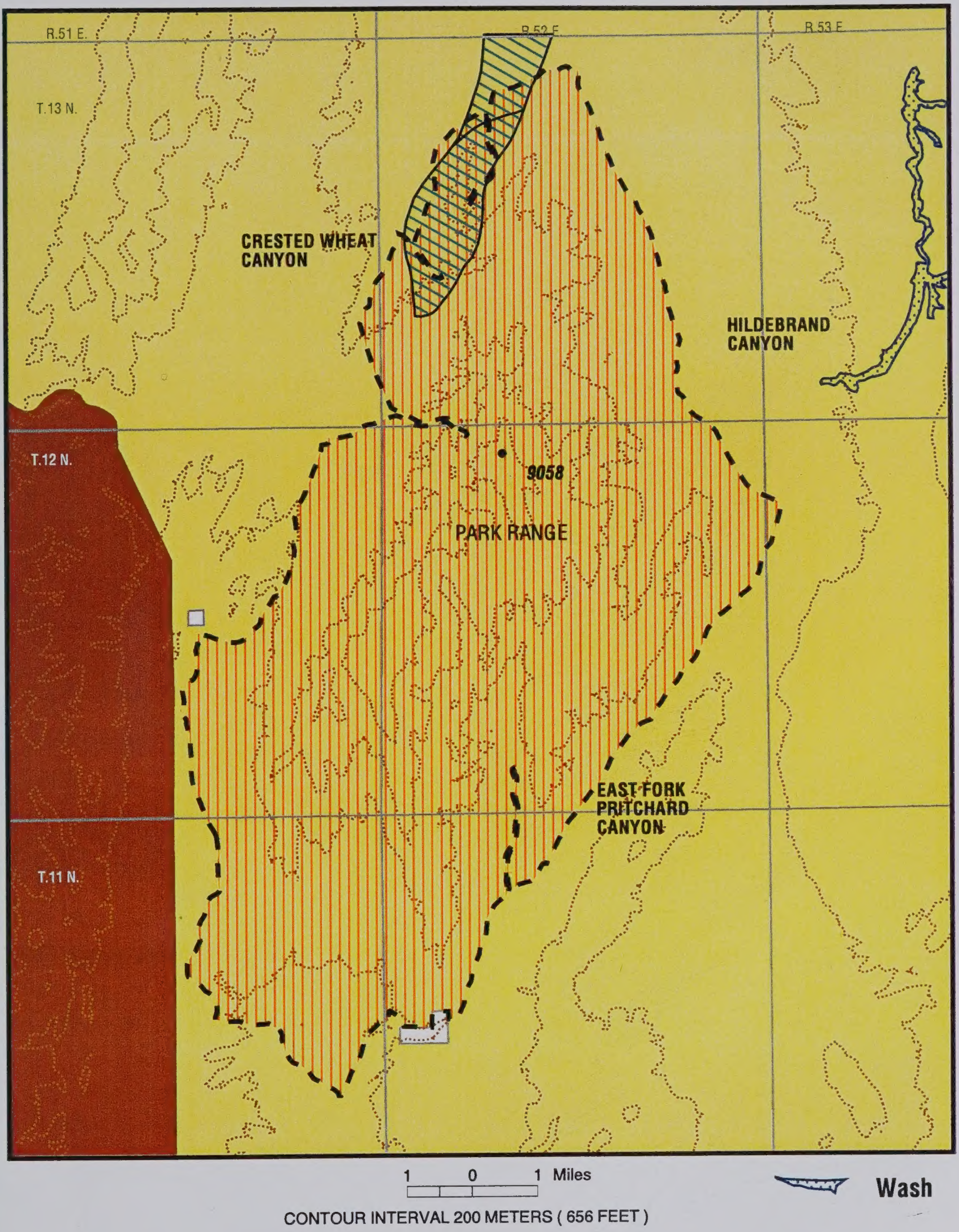
NO MINING CLAIMS ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-154

Park Range Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.51 E.
R.52 E.
R.53 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
CRESTED WHEAT CANYON
HILDEBRAND CANYON
9058
PARK RANGE
EAST FORK PRITCHARD CANYON
1 0 1 Miles
Wash
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **Medium - Gold, Silver, Arsenic, Mercury**

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
||||| Recommended Suitable

NV-040-154

RIORDAN'S WELL WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 57,002 acres

The Riordan's Well WSA (NV-040-166) is located in the Grant Range in east-central Nevada in Nye County approximately 50 miles southwest of Ely, Nevada. The WSA is located within both the Ely and Battle Mountain BLM Districts.The entire WSA is comprised of public lands with no private or State inholdings.

The boundaries of the WSA are formed by dirt roads with the exception of a 4-mile portion on the southwest side where the WSA is contiguous with the administrative boundary of the Quinn Canyon unit of the Humboldt National Forest. The Grant, Heath, and Cold Spring Canyon Roads form the unit's western boundary, and the Wells Station Summit Road forms the northern boundary. The Big Spring road and various jeep trails define the southern boundary of the unit. The WSA is contiguous with the Forest Service managed Grant Range Wilderness Area designated in 1989.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 0 acres recommended for wilderness 57,002 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is to release the entire area for uses other than wilderness due to a recommendation in the final mineral report. This report stated that the entire WSA is believed to have high potential for oil and gas. Developed oil fields exist to the west of the unit in Railroad Valley. There are also some conflicts with other resource uses occurring within the unit. While the WSA is not currently used for any extractive commercial purposes, mineral potential has been rated as moderate throughout much of the southern portion of the WSA. This part of the WSA is near the historic Troy mining district, where the geologic structure is favorable for containing host rocks for precious metals.

While the core of the WSA has high wilderness values, the lower elevations have fewer wilderness qualities. The lower foothills on the north lack interesting features, and have other resource uses such as potential forestry product harvest and more intensive grazing developments such as chainings. The foothills and alluvial benches on the southeast of the WSA contain the majority of roads and ways that penetrate the unit as well as most of the area slated for more intensive range development. Topographic and vegetative screening here is very limited and wilderness values are relatively low. The sparsely vegetated and open terrain provides good access and the ability to manage these areas, while not impossible, would require frequent seasonal patrols to regulate the off-road vehicle use.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** Most of the Riordan's Well WSA is in a highly natural condition. The central portion of the range is extremely rugged with elevations ranging from below 5,000 feet to 9,352 feet on Heath Peak. Remote basins within the unit are enhanced by pristine riparian settings and isolated stands of old growth pinyon pine and mahogany. The mountainous portions are a maze of peaks, outcrops, and drainages which support a variety of conifer and wildlife species, each adapted to their particular niche. The roadless nature of the interior of the unit has preserved the rugged naturalness in this portion of the Grant Range. Around Heath Peak, white limestone cliffs provide colorful contrast with the dark green forest canopy. These cliffs, risen from an ancient sea, have left a legacy of unexplored caves and arches for the wilderness visitor. The huge scale of the terrain is nowhere more obvious than on the north face of Heath Peak, where a giant rock slide has effaced the forest cover from peak to base. East of Heath Peak, a cirque-like bowl nestled among the mountain peaks is another attraction for the visitor. To the northeast, an area of red and yellow sandstone hills provides a pleasing contrast to the limestone crags surrounding the higher peaks.

Manmade intrusions include two spring developments at Lower Perish and Albert Springs; a small drift fence just south of Heath Spring; and several roads and ways mostly used by hunters and livestock operators. These roads and ways are concentrated mainly along the eastern bench and among the southeastern foothills and have very little or no impact on the perceived naturalness of the area as a whole, due to the rugged topography and dense vegetative screening.

B. Solitude: Solitude is a guaranteed quality in the mountainous part of the WSA, and opportunities for enjoying it are outstanding. The mountains are not a single ridgeline; instead, they occur as a number of interconnected but distinguishably separate peaks over an area that has both breadth and length. Undulating mountain slopes are blanketed by nearly solid pinyon and juniper forests, here and there briefly interrupted by the bright green of manzanita thickets. At the higher elevations white fir, limber pine, and ponderosa pines are found, enhancing vegetative screening to the extent that a secluded place can be found almost anywhere. The dense tree cover over most of the mountain mass enhances screening to the extent that a secluded place can be found almost anywhere. Because of this more than adequate screening, the lack of any single destination point with strong drawing power, and the large number of hiking routes into the core of the WSA, this high level of opportunity could be sustained even with fairly heavy use. Opportunities for solitude at the lower elevations of the WSA are not of the same high quality. As the mountains give way to gently sloping benchlands and foothills and the thick tree canopy gives way to open woodland, screening, both topographical and vegetative, decreases.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Many forms of recreation can be pursued in the WSA, including hiking, hunting, backpacking, nature study, photography, and trapping. While there are good opportunities for all of these, neither their quality nor their diversity, is considered to be outstanding.

The quality of recreation opportunities varies with topography. In the mountainous areas, opportunities are quite good, made so by the variety in landform and natural features. Visual satisfaction is provided by large rock outcrops, steep cliffs, undulating mountain slopes blanketed by nearly solid pinyon and juniper forests, here and there briefly interrupted by the bright green of manzanita thickets. At the higher elevations there are white fir and limber pine, and to the west of Heath Peak, ponderosa pines, which are uncommon due to the low precipitation and historic logging in this region. Any recreationist intrepid enough to venture into this rarely visited area should be uplifted by this unspoiled mountain setting. Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are lower on the less well vegetated and topographically diverse benchlands.

D. Special Features: Bighorn sheep which range into the WSA from the Forest Service unit to the south are considered a special feature. Bighorn sheep once driven close to extinction are now being reintroduced to much of their former range, including the Grant Range. The high peaks and outcrops of the WSA provide excellent habitat for the bighorn sheep to reestablish their former range. The isolated stands of ponderosa pine are another special feature of the unit. The ponderosa pine is a relict species in this portion of the Great Basin and the stands provide a source for genetic diversity.

4. MANAGEABILITY

Management of the WSA as wilderness would be possible with little cost or effort. The core of the area has good unit-configuration coupled with rugged topography provide for an area that is relatively inaccessible to off-road vehicles. Recreation use is expected to remain fairly low into the foreseeable future so that little effort would need be expended to monitor recreationists and their impacts. Near the boundary of the WSA, mineral and energy exploration and development is expected to take place in the future. Manageability problems could stem from the development of a small mine on the southern boundary of the unit that would disturb the wilderness values. Boundary roads would have to be patrolled to ensure that unauthorized harvesting of posts and fuelwood does not occur. Gentle terrain, good quality woodland products and easy access make the area inviting for woodcutters. In addition, the open nature of the terrain provides for easy access to off-road vehicle use.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines (USGS/BM) prepared a mineral-assessment report for the Riordan's Well WSA in 1988 (U.S. Geological Bulletin 1731-H). The report rates the entire WSA as having high potential for energy resources (oil and gas). Potential for geothermal resources is considered low in the assessment. The high energy resource rating is based on a recent report issued by the USGS entitled "Petroleum Potential of Wilderness Lands, Nevada" (Charles A. Sandberg, Miscellaneous Investigation Series, I-15-42) as well as the occurrence of producing oil fields to the west in Railroad Valley. The USGS/BM assessment had some basic differences with the earlier mineral evaluations used for the Egan Final Wilderness EIS. The most important difference was the reversal of the low potential rating for energy resources to high potential. The USGS/BM high potential rating was based largely on the study of thermal maturation of source beds (Sandberg, 1983). While some of the WSA is under energy leases, little interest by the industry has been demonstrated in the area.

The USGS/BM assessment indicated that much of the WSA has low potential for the occurrence of geothermal and metallic mineral resources. Two small areas which form a discontinuous band from the southern portion of the unit into the east-central portion are rated as having moderate potential for the occurrence of disseminated gold deposits. The report also identified two small areas on the western portion of the WSA, between Grant and Heath Canyons, as having moderate potential for the mineral resources of gold and silver; tungsten and base-metal deposits (copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum).

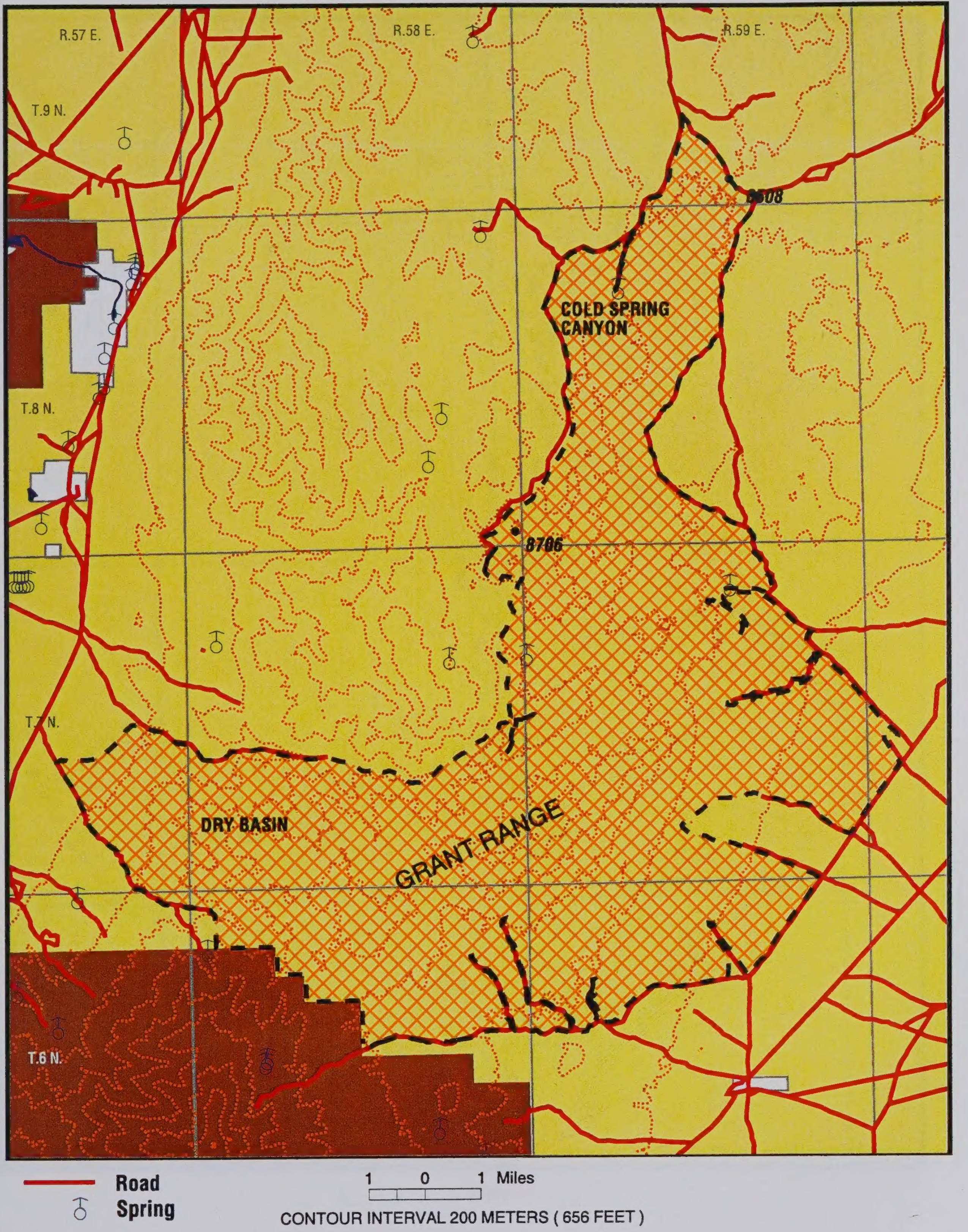
6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the inventory phase there was one comment received mentioning the unit had potential for oil and gas. This was carried forward into the study phase. Other issues raised during the study phase included the area's importance since it was contiguous to the U.S. Forest Services's Grant Range unit which was at that time proposed for wilderness, that the area had potential for oil and gas and gold and that designation could hurt economically important industries.

During public review of wilderness recommendations, a total of 55 comments were received specifically addressing the Riordan's Well WSA. In general, 50 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA and 4 commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA. Those favoring wilderness commented on the area being an important link between another BLM WSA and the Forest Service's Grant Range proposal; wildlife values, scenic and rugged high country, caves, ponderosa pine, minimal conflicts and unproven minerals. Comments opposing wilderness designation mentioned mineral, oil and gas potential and suggested that designation could hurt the area's economy. A comment from the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe did not specifically support designation or nondesignation of wilderness for the Riordan's Well WSA.

10/25/2000

Riordan's Well Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.57 E.
R.58 E.
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T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
8608
COLD SPRING CANYON
8706
DRY BASIN
GRANT RANGE
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟫 **Other Agency**

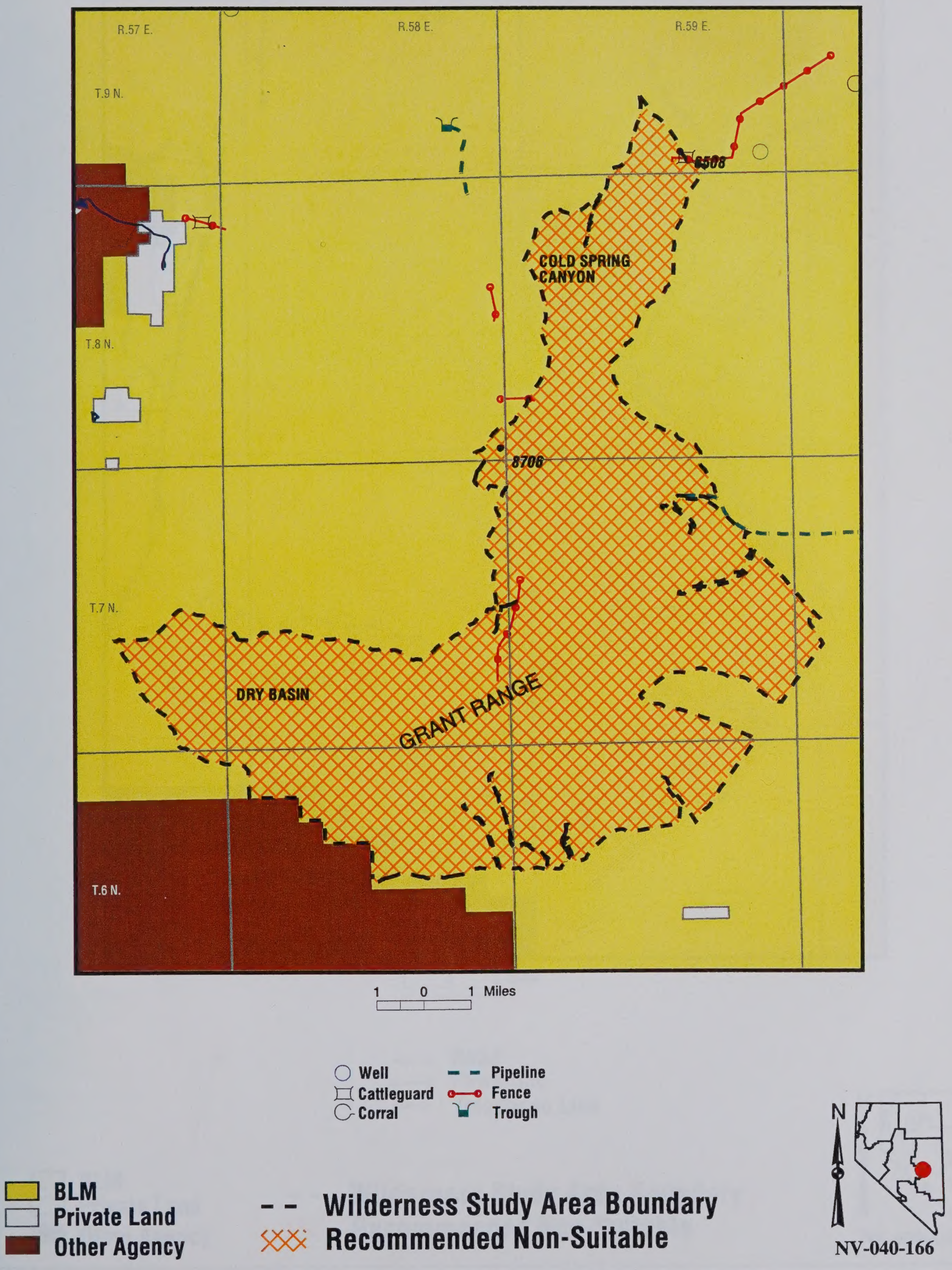
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

NV-040-166

10/25/2000

Riordan's Well Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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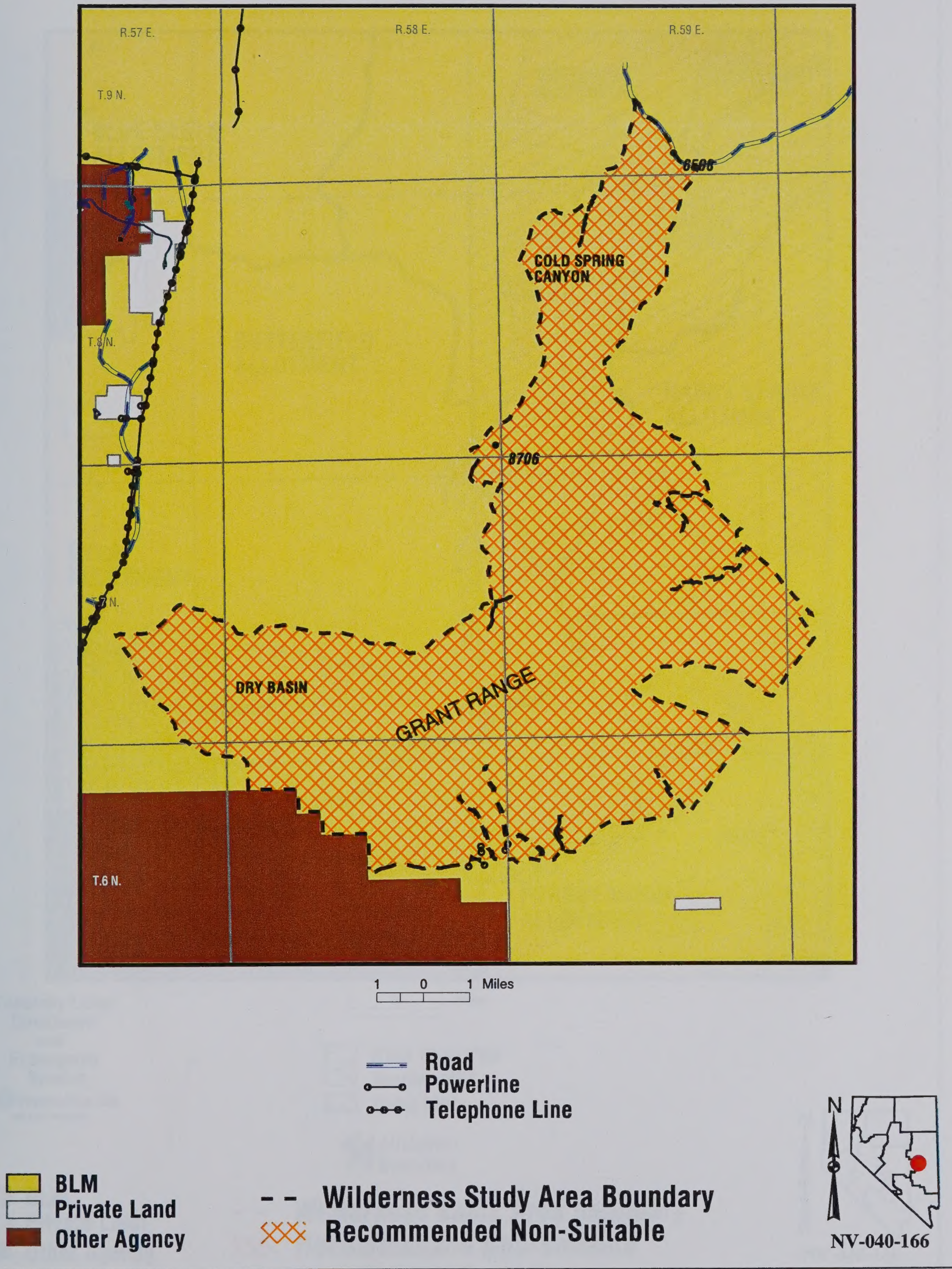
R.59 E.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
8508
COLD SPRING CANYON
8706
DRY BASIN
GRANT RANGE
1 0 1 Miles
Well
Cattleguard
Corral
Pipeline
Fence
Trough
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-166

Riordan's Well Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY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R.58 E.
R.59 E.
T.9 N.
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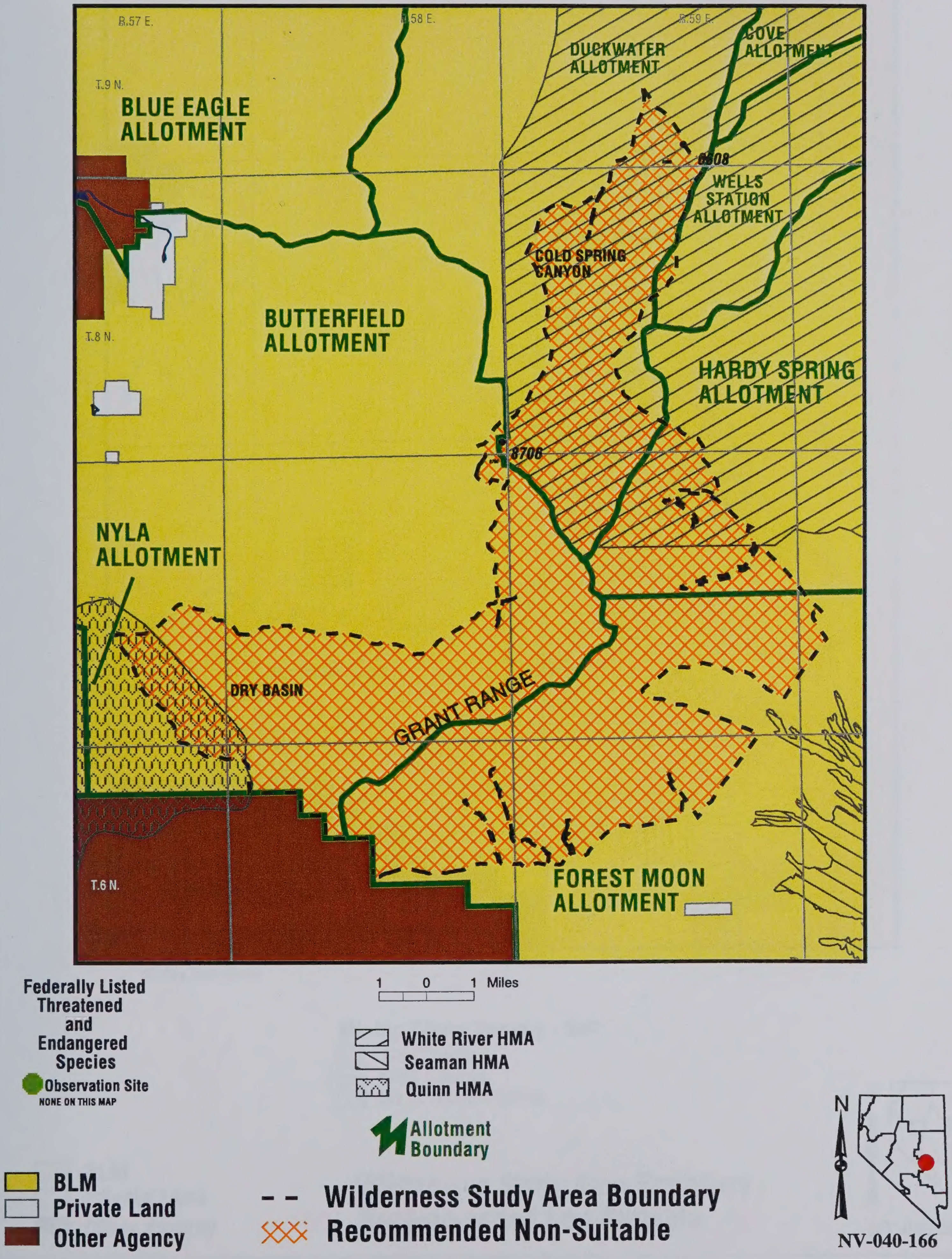
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
6506
COLD SPRING CANYON
8706
DRY BASIN
GRANT RANGE
1 0 1 Miles
Road
Powerline
Telephone Line
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-166

10/25/2000

Riordan's Well Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES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T.9 N.
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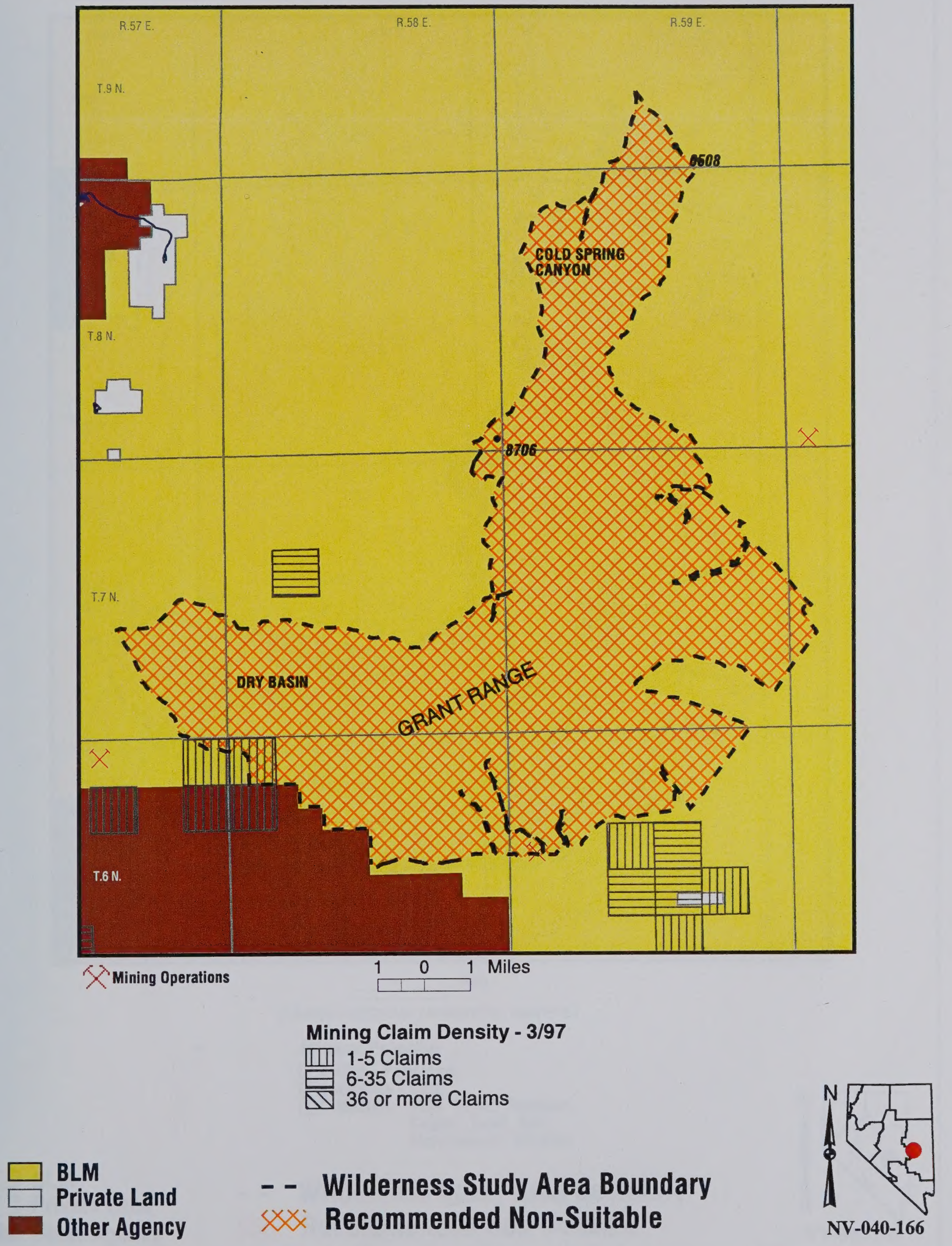
T.6 N.
BLUE EAGLE ALLOTMENT
DUCKWATER ALLOTMENT
COVE ALLOTMENT
8608
WELLS STATION ALLOTMENT
COLD SPRING CANYON
BUTTERFIELD ALLOTMENT
HARDY SPRING ALLOTMENT
8708
NYLA ALLOTMENT
DRY BASIN
GRANT RANGE
FOREST MOON ALLOTMENT
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
1 0 1 Miles
White River HMA
Seaman HMA
Quinn HMA
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-166

10/25/2000

Riordan's Well Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS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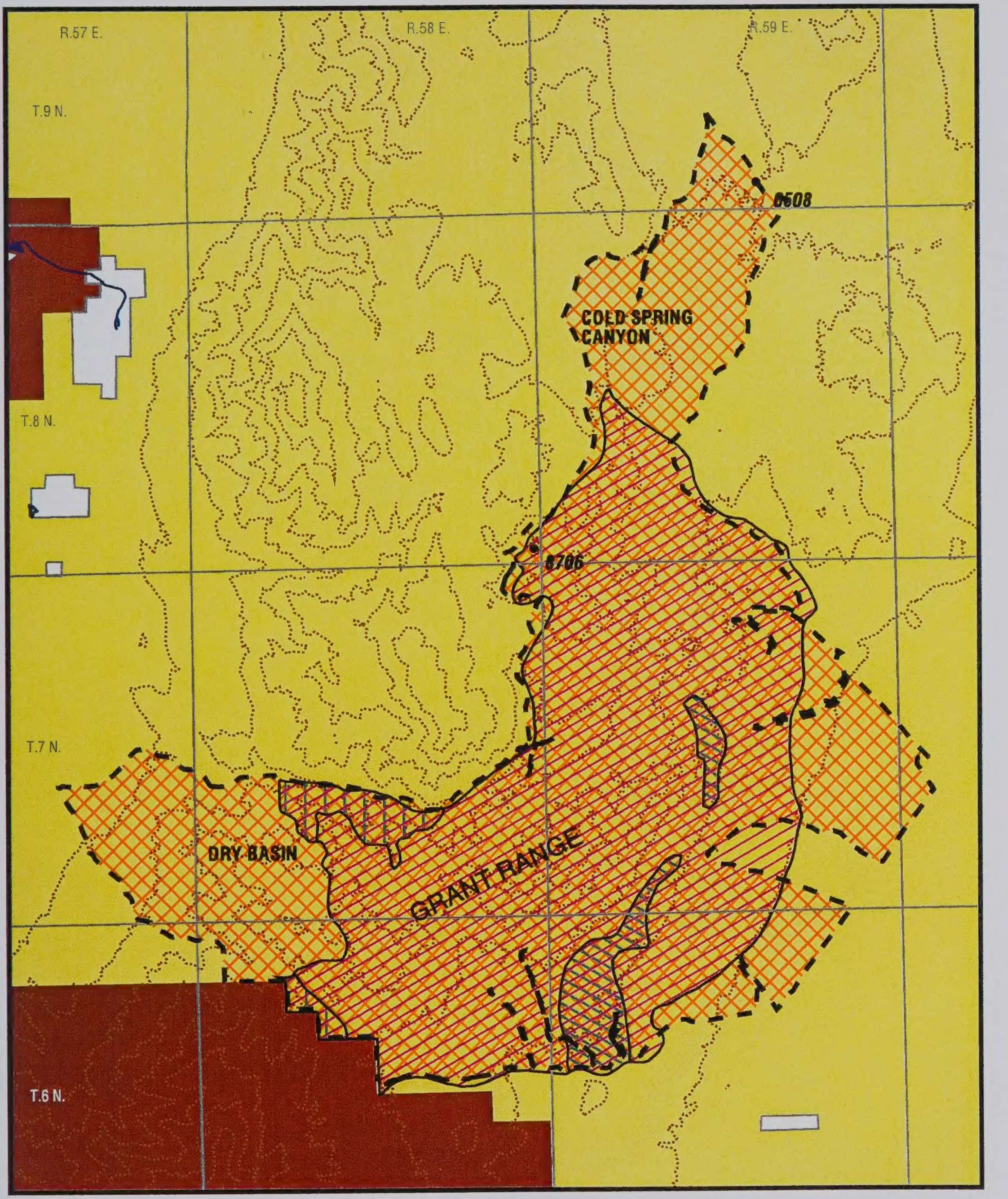
R.59 E.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
8508
COLD SPRING CANYON
8706
DRY BASIN
GRANT RANGE
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-166

10/25/2000

Riordan's Well Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.57 E.
R.58 E.
R.59 E.
T.9 N.
8508
COLD SPRING CANYON
T.8 N.
8706
T.7 N.
DRY BASIN
GRANT RANGE
T.6 N.

1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ High - Petroleum
▨ Medium - Gold
☐ Medium - Gold, Silver, Tungsten, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Molybdenum, Bismuth

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

NV-040-166

SOUTH EGAN RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 96,916 ACRES

The South Egan Range WSA (NV-040-168) is located in White Pine, Lincoln and Nye Counties in east-central Nevada. The nearest incorporated town is Lund, Nevada located two miles to the west. The WSA is comprised primarily of public land although it contains several private inholdings. The boundaries for the WSA are a complicated system of roads, private land, fence lines, and other unnatural features that, together, encircle nearly 100,000 acres of very mountainous terrain.

The northern boundary of the unit is formed by the Sawmill Canyon Road and the Rock Canyon seeding fence. The eastern boundary follows the Lone Pine Swale Road for nine miles to the Tony fenceline. Two miles to the south the fenceline connects with the Milk Ranch Canyon Road. The next ten miles of boundary are formed by the Milk Ranch Canyon Road, the Cave Valley Road, the Blue Rock Canyon Road and an unnamed jeep trail which traverses the Egan Range south to Long Canyon. Private land forms the boundary in Long Canyon and Haggerty Wash. The Shingle Pass Road completes the eastern and southern boundaries of the unit. The western boundary parallels State Highway 318 by following a series of interconnected north-south jeep trails and fencelines which traverse the length of the alluvial fan slope at the base of the range. The southern most part of the western boundary is formed by a series of indefinite point-to-point locations which tie into the Shingle Pass Road.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - **0 acres recommended for wilderness**
96,916 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the South Egan Range WSA is to release the entire area for uses other than wilderness. The South Egan Range was not recommended for wilderness because of the quantity of unnatural features, the mineral potential in the northern portion, concern expressed by local citizens, potential for developed recreation, and close proximity to several other WSAs recommended for wilderness. Several manageability concerns exist that support the recommendation include an awkward configuration caused by a series of unnatural features (roads, fence lines, reservoirs). The area could almost be considered as two separate units; a northern unit and a southern unit. Dividing the area or reducing its size to deal with manageability concerns would dilute the quality of opportunities available. In addition, the WSA boundary is based on many ambiguous features. Much of the eastern boundary is based on private parcels which are largely unsurveyed and unmarked on the ground. Portions of fencelines, jeep trails, point-to-point features, etc. make identifying the remaining boundary very difficult

Although most of the unnatural features have been cherrystemmed from the area, they still exist as reminders of man's influence. Their extent goes beyond the valley and bench areas into the high country. Bladed fence lines occur as high as the top of the range and numerous cherrystemmed roads and ways cut through the heart of the WSA.

.3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** Much of the WSA is untouched, almost pristine. Naturalness values are highest in two fairly distinct zones, a northern and a southern one. These are the remote higher elevation areas of the WSA where the ruggedness prevents extensive grazing by cattle and access and project developments are less feasible. Yet, a large number of manmade intrusions penetrate the area. This part of the Egan Range has been heavily developed for livestock grazing, and most of the unnatural features are associated with this activity. Several miles of bladed fence line, many roads, and numerous developed springs exist throughout the area. Many of the man-made intrusions are especially concentrated in the Sheep Pass Canyon area in the center of the unit.

B. **Solitude:** Opportunities for solitude are outstanding in the WSA. The very large size of the area combines with extensive topographic and vegetative screening to create these. Although the mountains of the unit lie in an elongated configuration, they do have breadth and are highly dissected. Many side canyons and ancillary ridges, outcrops and interconnected peaks serve to provide innumerable secluded places to which a person can retreat from evidences of civilization. Solitude is greatest in the most natural parts of the WSA.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation in the WSA are outstanding because of the variety and quality of different types of recreation possible. The area provides a diversity of terrain, ecosystems, and scenic vistas which enhance nearly all opportunities, including those for backpacking, hunting, nature study, horseback riding, and hiking. In many places at the highest elevations, the mountains form a broad, nearly flat table with small scattered stands of timber. Opportunities for camping and hiking are especially good in such areas because of their openness, the level terrain they offer and the coppices of trees that provide shelter and fuelwood. Recreation opportunities in the WSA are generally enhanced by a relative abundance of springs and riparian areas. Hunters find ample opportunities for enjoyment of their sport because of the concentrations of mule deer, sage grouse, blue grouse and mountain lions. The WSA currently sustains comparatively heavy hunting use, with an estimated 455 hunter visits per year. The potential for technical rock climbing is known to be good. Challenging ascents exist for a wide range of skill levels, from the easiest to the very difficult.

D. **Special Features:** Bristlecone pines, members of the longest-lived species on earth occur in fairly high numbers at the highest elevations. Angel Cave is considered a special feature even though it is not especially large. It is a limestone solution cave that is atypical because of the high elevation at which it occurs. Most such caves occur at lower elevations where groundwater accumulates. The cave is ripe for scientific study that may lead to understanding of the mechanisms and dynamics of its formation.

Another special feature is the area's archaeological richness. Known prehistoric archaeological values are fairly extensive and include several large camp site complexes, quarry sites, and rock art. Potential for discovery of additional cultural resources is very high within the WSA.

The scenic values of the WSA are especially great because of the dramatic rock cliffs on the western side of the range. They are very striking from highway 318, which parallels the range; and are most impressive when beheld at close range, towering high overhead.The wildlife values of the area constitute a special feature due to their great numbers and diversity. The cliffs provide nesting areas for cliff dwelling raptors, in particular prairie falcons, whose nesting density here is the highest in the Ely BLM District. Red-tail hawks, golden eagles, kestrels, turkey vultures, great horned and long eared owls also dwell in the area. Their presence provides good opportunities for scientific and educational study.

4. MANAGEABILITY

Overall, the South Egan Range WSA would be manageable as wilderness. Nearly 25 miles of the boundary are based on unsurveyed and/or unmarked private land. The 400 acres of private land scattered through the WSA could cause some manageability problems should development take place on these parcels in the future and access be needed. In addition, the 80 acres of privately owned mineral rights (split estate) could also present manageability problems should any exploration or development occur.

The mineral potential on the north end of the WSA could pose some manageability dilemmas. Even with wilderness designation, some mineral and energy exploration is likely. In addition, two oil and gas exploration wells are predicted to be drilled along the western bench within the WSA and wilderness values would be lost in their immediate vicinity for a long period of time.

Finally, manageability would be affected by activities which are currently occurring without authorization,

principally greenwood cutting. Patrol costs and regulation of these activities would be costly in terms of both time and funds. Other activities such as off-road travel, would be difficult to control because of an established history of use by local residents.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The South Egan Range WSA was evaluated for energy and mineral potential in the 1983 GEM study. This study led to additional geochemical sampling over the entire WSA to further refine the resource potential evaluations (USGS Preliminary Open-File Report "Reconnaissance Geochemistry of the South Egan Range"; 1983). The 1983 GEM report rates the northern portion of the WSA within the Ellison Mining District as moderate to high favorability for metallic and non-metallic mineral resources with a high confidence level. This evaluation is supported by the fact that mining claims are still held in the area and mineral exploration is continuing on a sporadic basis. Limited amounts of gold, silver, lead, copper, zinc, and fluorite were produced from the area in the 1930's and 1940's (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology; Bulletin 85, 1976). The GEM study indicates that there are no known occurrences of oil and gas resources within the WSA and the area is rated as having low favorability for these resources. A 328 acre near Emigrant Springs has moderate geothermal potential. The thermal water here is measured at 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The remainder of the WSA has low potential for geothermal resources.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the inventory phase there were no comments received which mentioned other resource values or conflicts. Issues raised during the study phase cited the unit's archaeological, geological, and scenic values as well as diverse wildlife and vegetation.

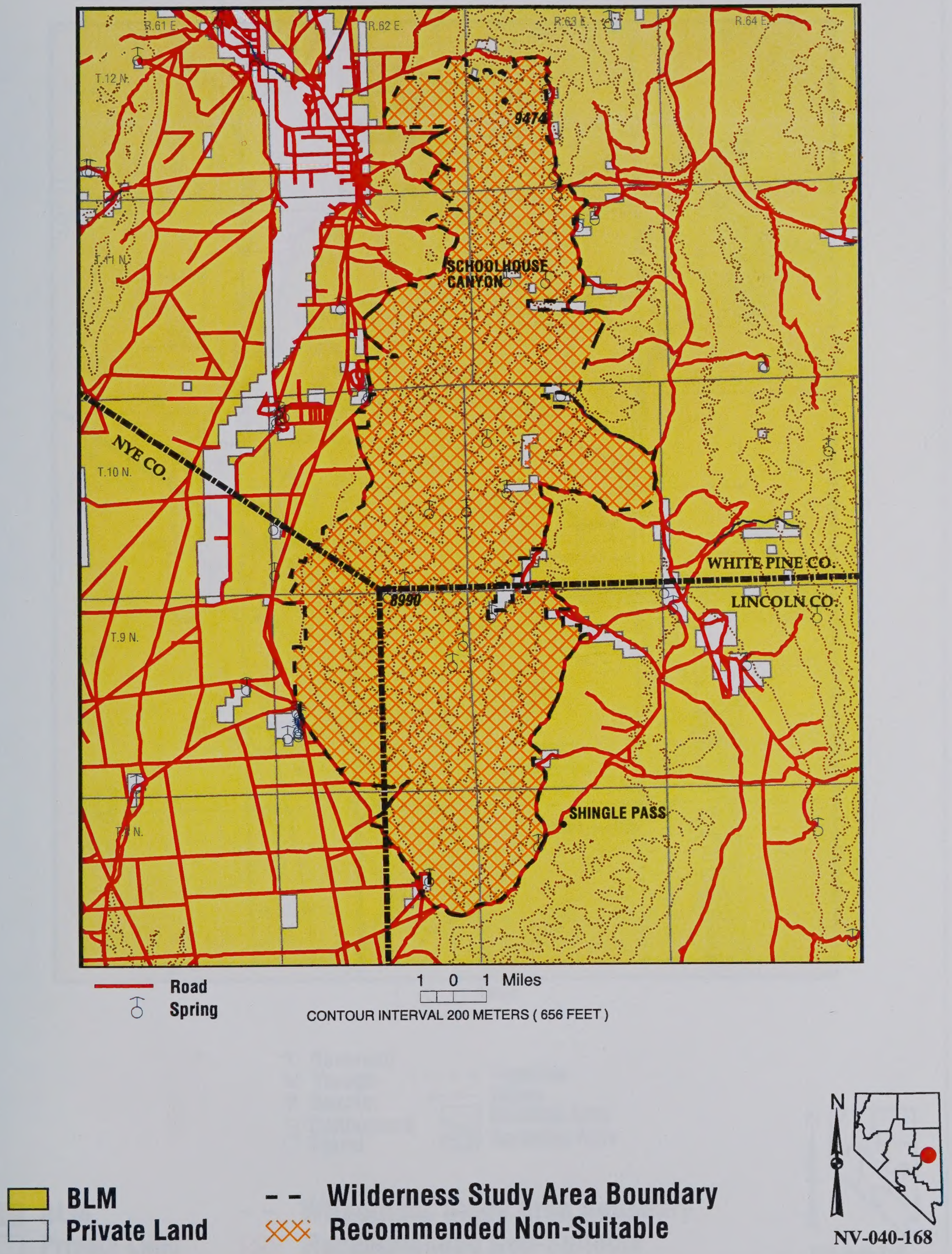
During public review of the draft wilderness recommendation, a total of 62 comments were received that specifically addressed this area; 52 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA, 9 commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA, and one commentor took no position on designation.Those supporting designation discussed the wildlife, scenic limestone cliffs and forests and bristlecone pine as reasons why the unit should be wilderness. The Division of State Parks in supporting the unit as wilderness, stated "the Egan Range is probably the best example in the Great Basin that shows a complete Paleozoic sequence of geology." Comments opposing wilderness designation mentioned the mineral and energy potential and existing mining to the north, high potential for range development, existing roads and dependence on the area for fuelwood and Christmas tree cutting by local residents.

The Governor of Nevada, in his consensus and consistency letters supported the Preferred Alternative of no wilderness. The White Pine County Commission, White Pine Regional Planning Commission, City of Ely and the Lund Town Council supported the proposed action which was no wilderness. The major concern of these groups was that wilderness designation could adversely affect the local economy.

There were two comment letters received on the final wilderness recommendation. The first, from the Environmental Protection Agency did not specifically mention the South Egan Range WSA, nor did the second letter from the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe.

10/25/2000

South Egan Range Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP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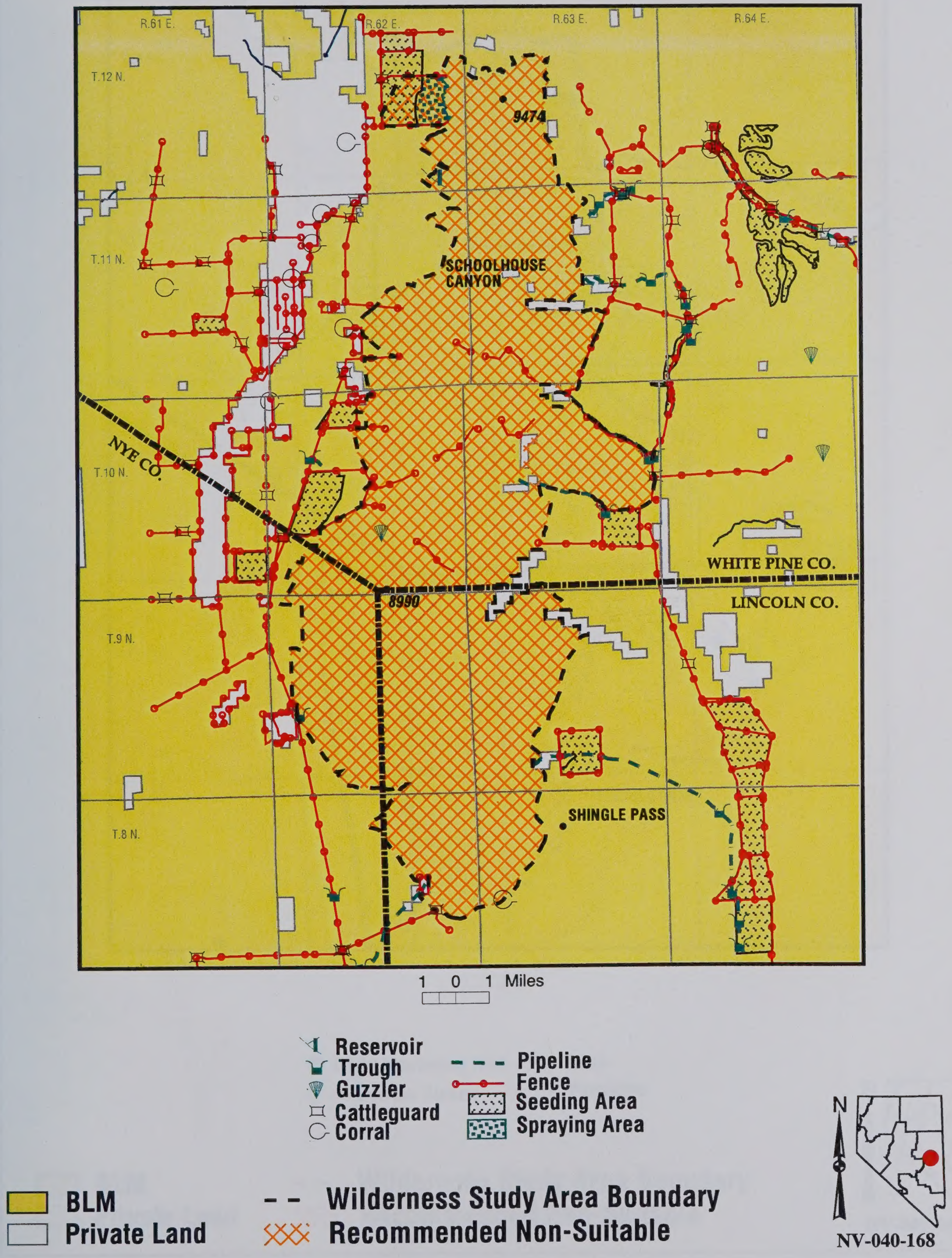
9474
SCHOOLHOUSE CANYON
NYE CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
8990
SHINGLE PASS
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-168

10/25/2000

South Egan Range Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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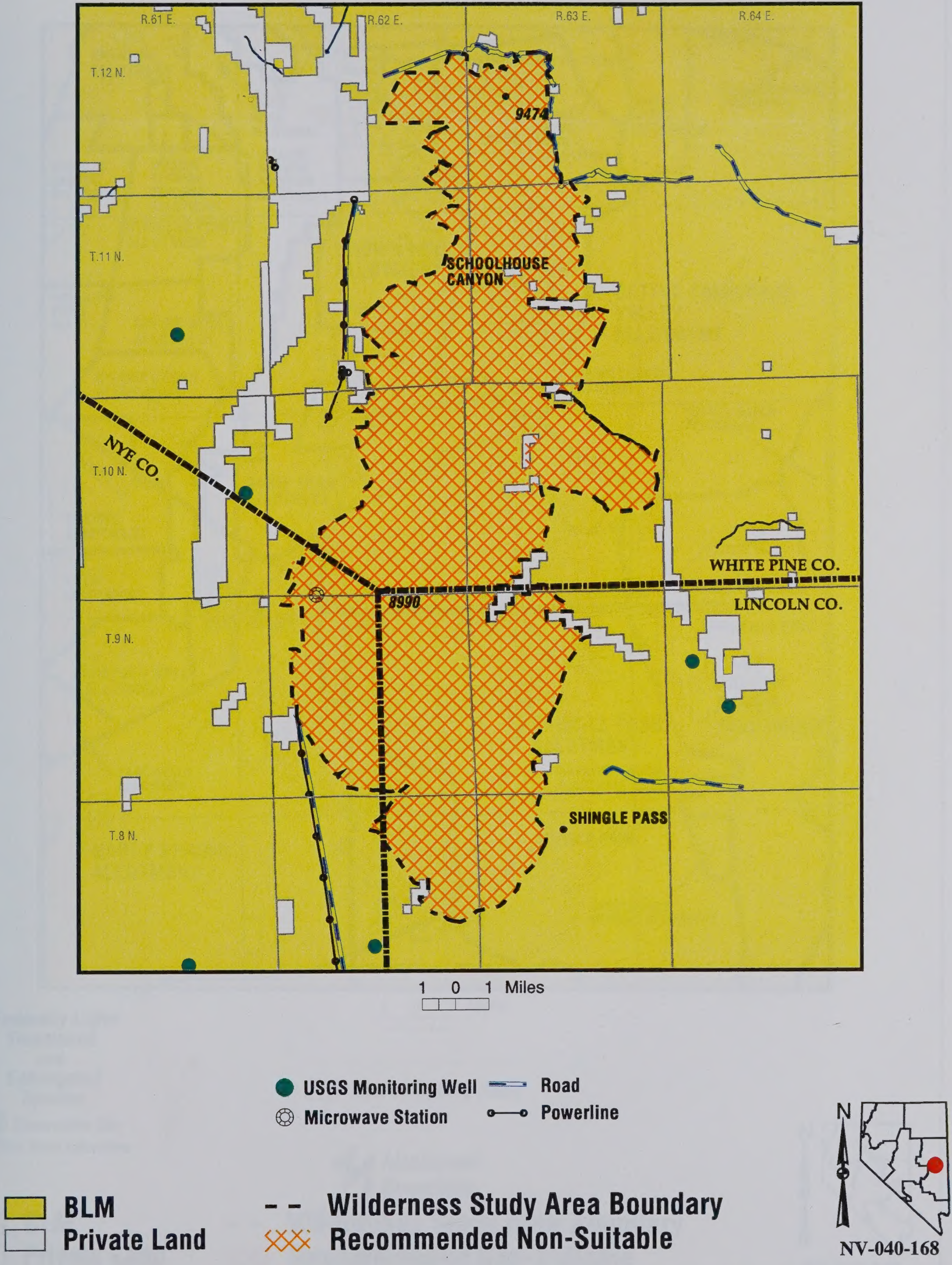
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
9474
SCHOOLHOUSE CANYON
NYE CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
8990
SHINGLE PASS
1 0 1 Miles
Reservoir
Trough
Guzzler
Cattleguard
Corral
Pipeline
Fence
Seeding Area
Spraying Area
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-168

10/25/2000

South Egan Range Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY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T.12 N.
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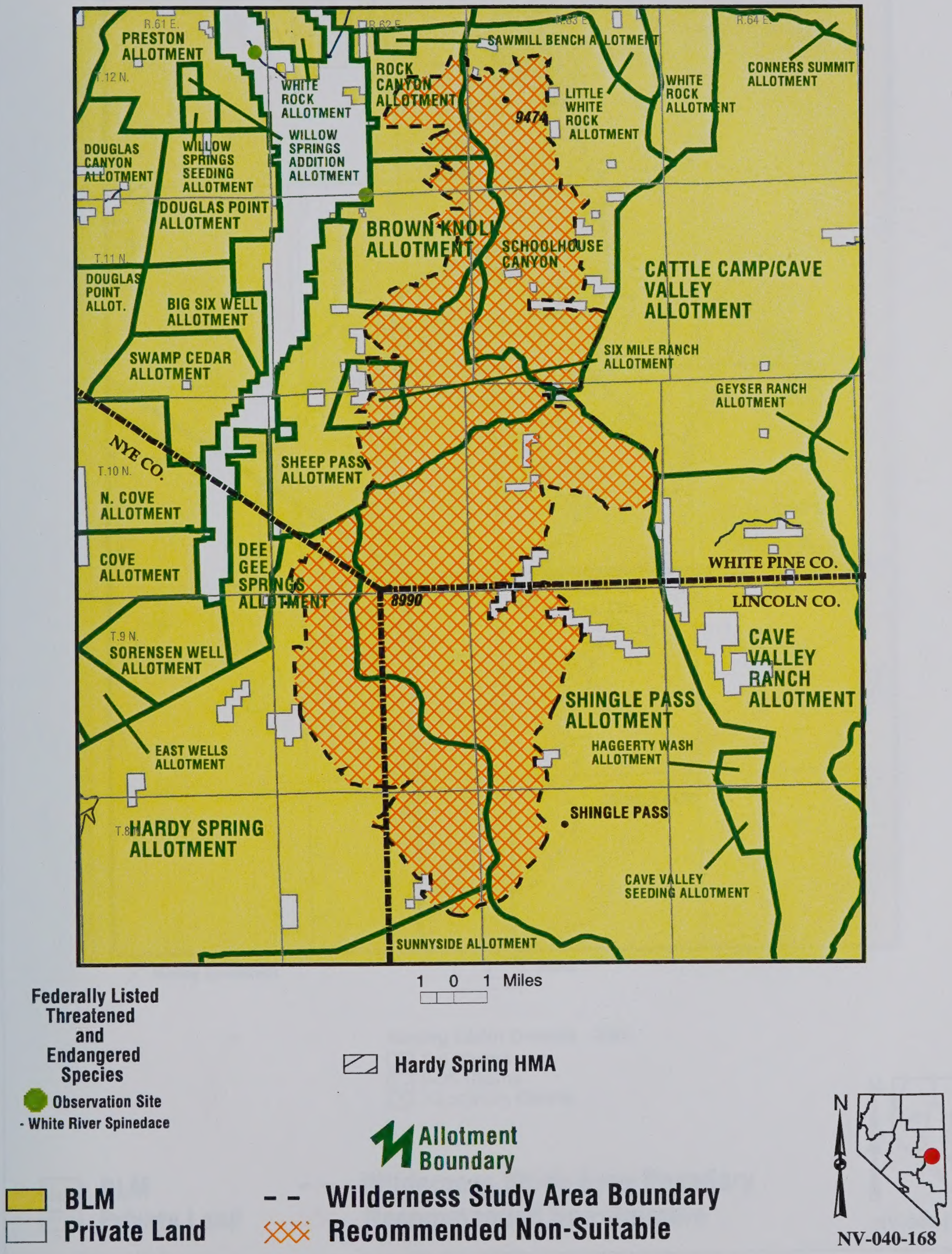
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
9474
SCHOOLHOUSE CANYON
NYE CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
8990
SHINGLE PASS
1 0 1 Miles
● USGS Monitoring Well
Microwave Station
Road
Powerline
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-168

10/25/2000

South Egan Range Wilderness Study Area
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES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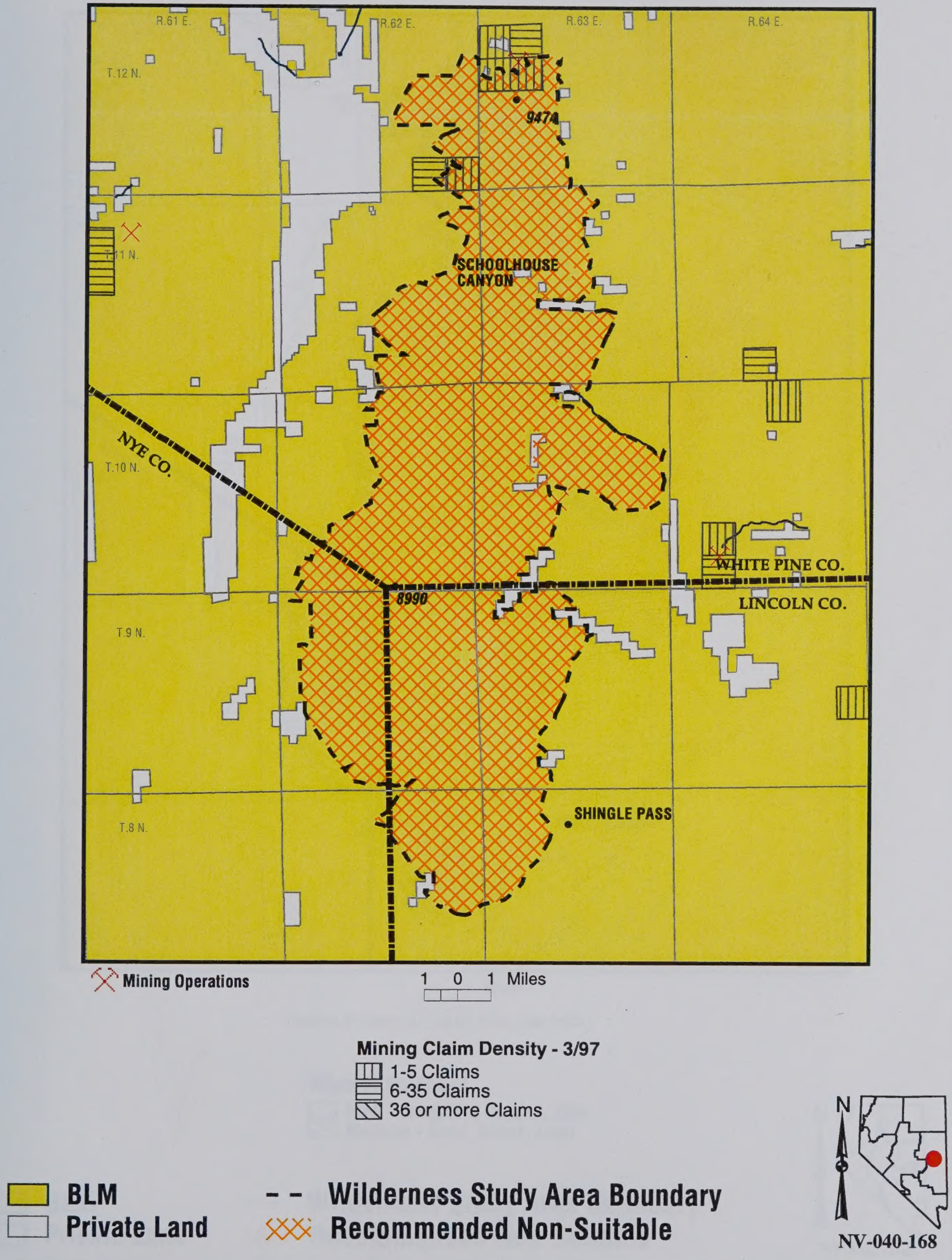
T.8 N.
PRESTON ALLOTMENT
WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
WILLOW SPRINGS ADDITION ALLOTMENT
ROCK CANYON ALLOTMENT
SAWMILL BENCH ALLOTMENT
LITTLE WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
CONNERS SUMMIT ALLOTMENT
9474
DOUGLAS CANYON ALLOTMENT
WILLOW SPRINGS SEEDING ALLOTMENT
DOUGLAS POINT ALLOTMENT
BROWN KNOLL ALLOTMENT
SCHOOLHOUSE CANYON
CATTLE CAMP/CAVE VALLEY ALLOTMENT
DOUGLAS POINT ALLOT.
BIG SIX WELL ALLOTMENT
SWAMP CEDAR ALLOTMENT
SIX MILE RANCH ALLOTMENT
GEYSER RANCH ALLOTMENT
NYE CO.
SHEEP PASS ALLOTMENT
N. COVE ALLOTMENT
COVE ALLOTMENT
DEE GEE SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
8990
SORENSEN WELL ALLOTMENT
CAVE VALLEY RANCH ALLOTMENT
SHINGLE PASS ALLOTMENT
HAGGERTY WASH ALLOTMENT
EAST WELLS ALLOTMENT
SHINGLE PASS
HARDY SPRING ALLOTMENT
CAVE VALLEY SEEDING ALLOTMENT
SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT
1 0 1 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
● Observation Site
- White River Spinedace
▨ Hardy Spring HMA
Allotment Boundary
🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-168

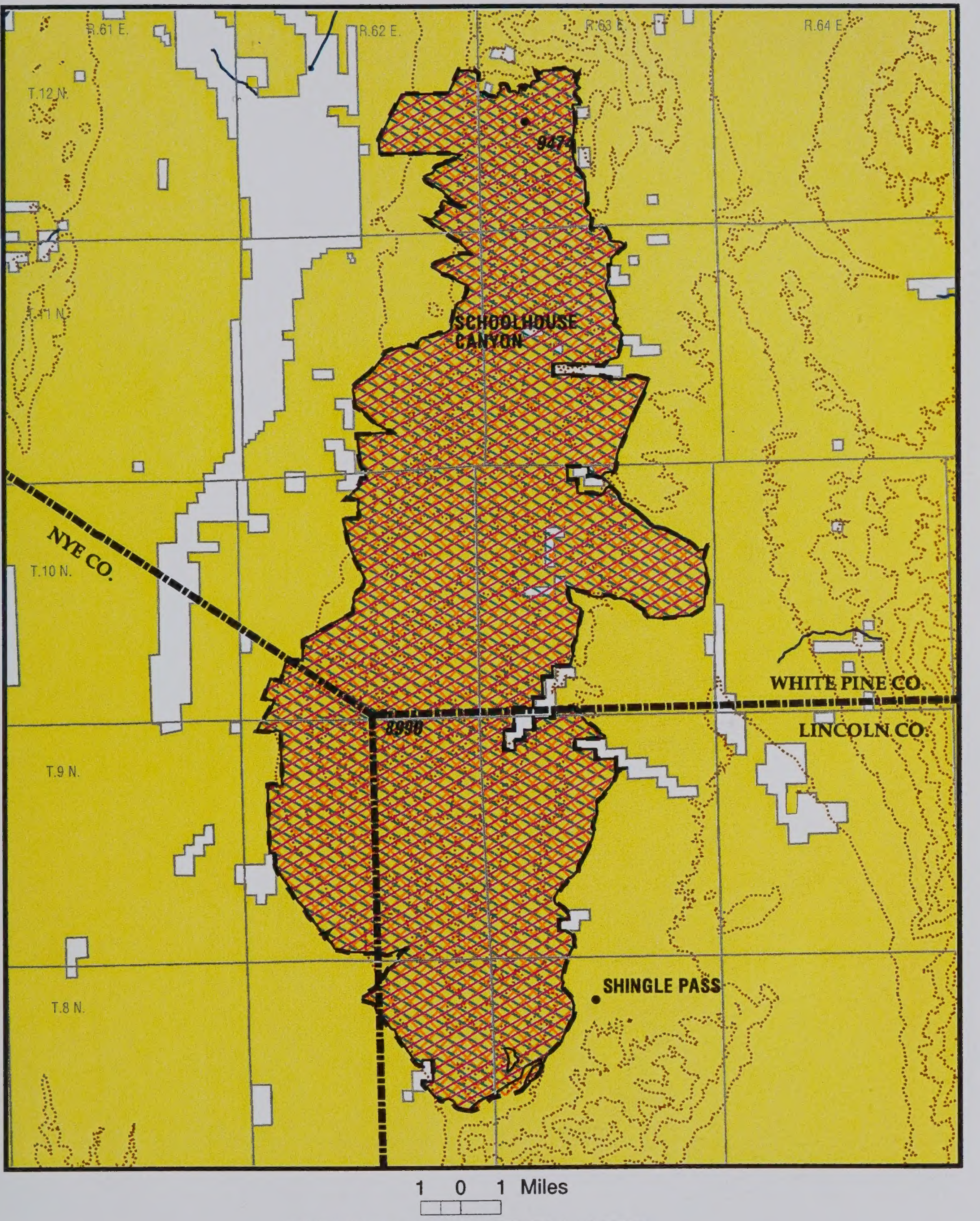
10/25/2000

South Egan Range Wilderness Study Area
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
9474
SCHOOLHOUSE CANYON
NYE CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
8990
SHINGLE PASS
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-168

10/25/2000

South Egan Range Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
T.12 N.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
9474
SCHOOLHOUSE CANYON
NYE CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
8898
SHINGLE PASS
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **High - Tungsten, Copper, Zinc**
▨ **Medium - Gold, Silver, Lead**

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

NV-040-168

MOUNT GRAFTON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 73,216 acres

The Mount Grafton WSA (NV-040-169) is located in east-central Nevada, in White Pine and Lincoln Counties, approximately 30 miles south of Ely, Nevada. The WSA includes 73,216 acres of public land and five privately owned inholdings totalling 280 acres .

The boundaries of the WSA are a complex combination of lines drawn along roads, private land, contour lines and natural features. The northern boundary of the unit follows a legal line, a fenceline, the 7,400-foot contour line, several natural features and the Cattle Camp Wash Road. The eastern boundary is formed by the Lake Valley Summit Road and a series of inter-connected fencelines and jeep trails which traverse the eastern bench. The southern boundary is formed by old mining roads and scars north of Patterson Pass. The southwestern boundary traverses the alluvial bench to the north and for the most part is defined by private land and jeep trails. The Cave Valley Road forms the west boundary of the unit.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 30,115 acres recommended for wilderness
43,101 acres recommended for nonwilderness

Mount Grafton itself, at 10,990 feet, is the tallest peak on BLM-administered land in Nevada. These highly scenic mountains of the Schell Creek Range are rugged with numerous rock outcrops, crags and peaks scattered throughout the high country. Public support was strong during the study process and during the formal review of the draft wilderness EIS. It has also long been one of the more popular areas in the region among outdoor recreationists. The diversity and the quality of these recreation opportunities are outstanding and led to the recommendation to designate a portion of the WSA as wilderness.

Every feature of the WSA is on a large scale, its three major peaks being the last to hold snow in the late spring, the first to carry snow in autumn. From the peaks, the view of surrounding valleys and mountains is expansive and contributes to the exhilaration that is a definite part of the experience of ridgeline hiking. Wildlife is abundant: Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, raptors, and mountain lions are among the many species in the area. Extensive forested areas include pinyon, juniper, aspen, limber and bristlecone pine, and white fir.

Also supporting the recommendation is the striking absence of manmade intrusions and the very naturalness of the area. The richness of the natural environment along with its size makes for outstanding opportunities for solitude. Excellent screening is provided by the massive landform and by the dense woodland over much of the mountain range.

Designation of this portion of the WSA as wilderness would serve to protect most of the high wilderness values, while minimizing the conflicts with other resources. Some conflicts associated with mineral potential do remain. Although potential exists, it is not anticipated that any mineral production would occur in the foreseeable future.

Portion A was not recommended due to lower wilderness values, the presence of a crested wheatgrass seeding, several stock reservoirs and cherrystemmed routes.

Portion B was not recommended for wilderness due to numerous cherrystemmed roads and ways totaling about 10 miles, a bladed fenceline, two diversion ditches and the ruins of an abandoned tramway. This portion also includes the area near the Deer Trail Mine where numerous mining prospects are scattered along the hillsides.

Portion C was not recommended for wilderness due to mineral information provided by the 1983 GEM study. The mineral potential of this area is sufficient to emphasize management of this area to maintain access for mineral exploration.

Portion D was not recommended for wilderness because of manageability concerns with the five parcels of private lands scattered throughout the area as well as mineral potential. Several of the private parcels have no current access and any attempt to create a road to them would be highly visible. Maintaining access to this area for mineral exploration is emphasized.

Portion E on the north end of the WSA was excluded because of the presence of many unnatural features including crested wheatgrass seedings, stock reservoirs, as well as many miles of fences and jeep trails. In addition, approximately 5 miles of the northern boundary is not based on easily seen features on the ground and this lack of identification is considered a manageability concern.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** The Mount Grafton WSA is in a natural condition The WSA's large size and dissected topography has served to confine intrusions to the lower elevations. The high degree of naturalness within the WSA has been recognized with the designation of two scenic areas within the unit - the Mount Grafton and North Creek Scenic Areas. The suitable core of the area is nearly pristine. Here, creeks rush down through aspen groves, elk wander in high meadows and bristlecone pine cling to rocky faces. Only portions of five primitive cherrystemmed routes can be found within this area and they are very unobtrusive.

B. **Solitude:** Opportunities for solitude in the Mount Grafton WSA are outstanding. The sheer size of the area alone makes for good opportunities. Combined with this are the excellent topographic screening with many side canyons and large rock outcrops; and excellent vegetative screening from dense pinyon-juniper stands and large stands of aspen and fir.

The benchlands in areas A, B, and D have lower quality opportunities for solitude than the remainder of the WSA. Overall, both the topographic and the vegetative screening on the benches is somewhat less than in the mountains and fewer secluded areas can be found.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** Outstanding opportunities for recreation exist in the Mount Grafton WSA due to a combination of good diversity and a high quality of opportunities. Hiking, camping, and backpacking opportunities are excellent on the ridgeline where the scenic vistas both outside and within the WSA are awe-inspiring. The North Creek area on the east side of the WSA is a large riparian zone with abundant fauna and flora. The creek is one of only a few perennial streams with a fishery entirely on BLM-administered land in the Ely District. Other types of recreation possible in the WSA include trapping, hunting, rock climbing, photography, and fishing at North Creek and Geyser Creek. The quality of these opportunities generally diminishes as the elevation decreases. Recreation opportunities are lowest on the benchlands where the vegetation, wildlife, and scenery is least varied.

D. **Special Features:** The high scenic value of the WSA is considered to be a special feature. Many factors contribute to the scenic values including the massiveness of the landform; the alternating open and forested areas with their different and contrasting colors and textures provided by talus fields, grass meadows, rock outcrops, and bright fall colors of large aspen stands. The North Creek and Mount Grafton scenic areas are formally designated areas which partially lie within the WSA.

4. MANAGEABILITY (the area must be capable of being managed to preserve its wilderness character)

The portion of the Mount Grafton WSA recommended for wilderness is manageable with little cost or effort due to the exclusion of benchland areas which contain most of the roads, ways, range developments and

private lands.

Portions A through C would be manageable as wilderness. The crested wheatgrass seedings and other range developments in these portions would require periodic mechanical maintenance. While temporarily impacting wilderness values in the vicinity during the needed maintenance, wilderness values would not be greatly lessened by these efforts.

While not rendering the entire Portion D unmanageable, the two private parcels with no current access do create a management concern.

Portion E would not be manageable with the current boundary. Approximately 5 miles of this northern boundary is poorly defined on the ground. The crested wheatgrass seedings and other range developments in this portion would require periodic mechanical maintenance. While temporarily impacting wilderness values in the vicinity during the needed maintenance, wilderness values would not be greatly lessened by these efforts.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The report identifies the majority of the area recommended for wilderness as having low potential for mineral resources. Three areas on the periphery of the unit were identified as having moderate potential.

On the northwest periphery of the study area, moderate potential for gold and silver occurring in vein deposits was identified. The eastern portion of the unit was identified as having moderate potential for silver and tungsten.

The southern portion of the unit which borders the Patterson Mining District was identified as having moderate potential for tungsten, lead, zinc, silver, gold and fluorite in hydrothermal veins or replacement deposits. A small zone within the moderate potential area was identified as having high potential for tungsten, zinc and copper metals. Development of mineral resources is not anticipated

The energy resource (oil and gas) potential was rated as low for the Mount Grafton WSA. Geothermal resource potential for the WSA was also rated as low.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

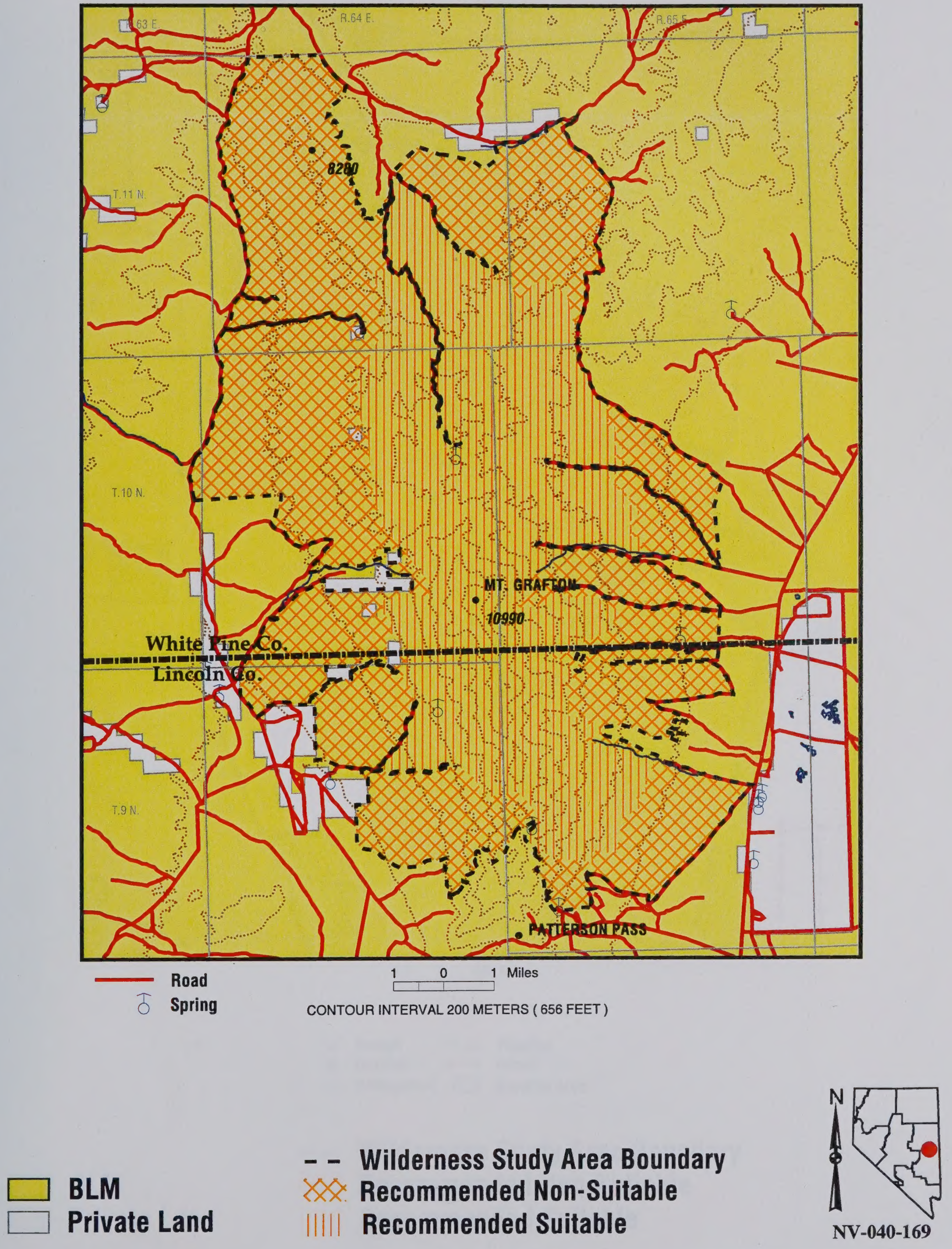
During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between April 8 to July 8, 1983 a total of 41 comments were received specifically addressing the Mount Grafton WSA. Of those, 32 were written comments and 9 were oral testimonies. In general, 35 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA, 5 commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA while one commentor mentioned the Mount Grafton WSA but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and the Department of the Air Force all commented on the draft EIS. None of these agencies had a jurisdictional conflict with any of the alternatives. The Governor of Nevada as well as the State Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, and Historic Preservation and Archeology, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Lincoln County Conservation District supported a no wilderness recommendation because of old tungsten mining sites, the presence of roads and ways, and a concern that access for wildlife management could be curtailed.

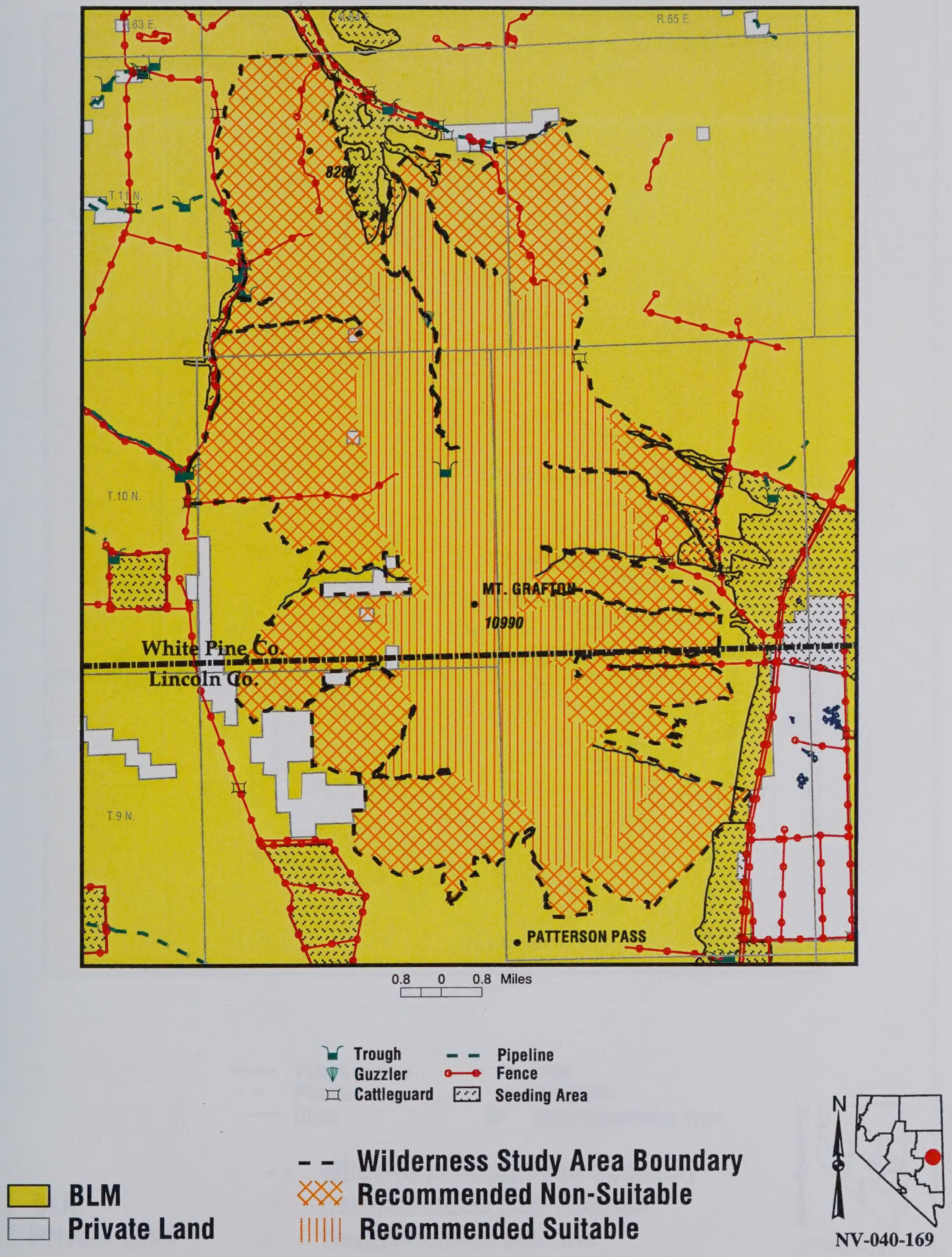
One letter was received on the final EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness recommendation.

10/25/2000

Mt. Grafton Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP

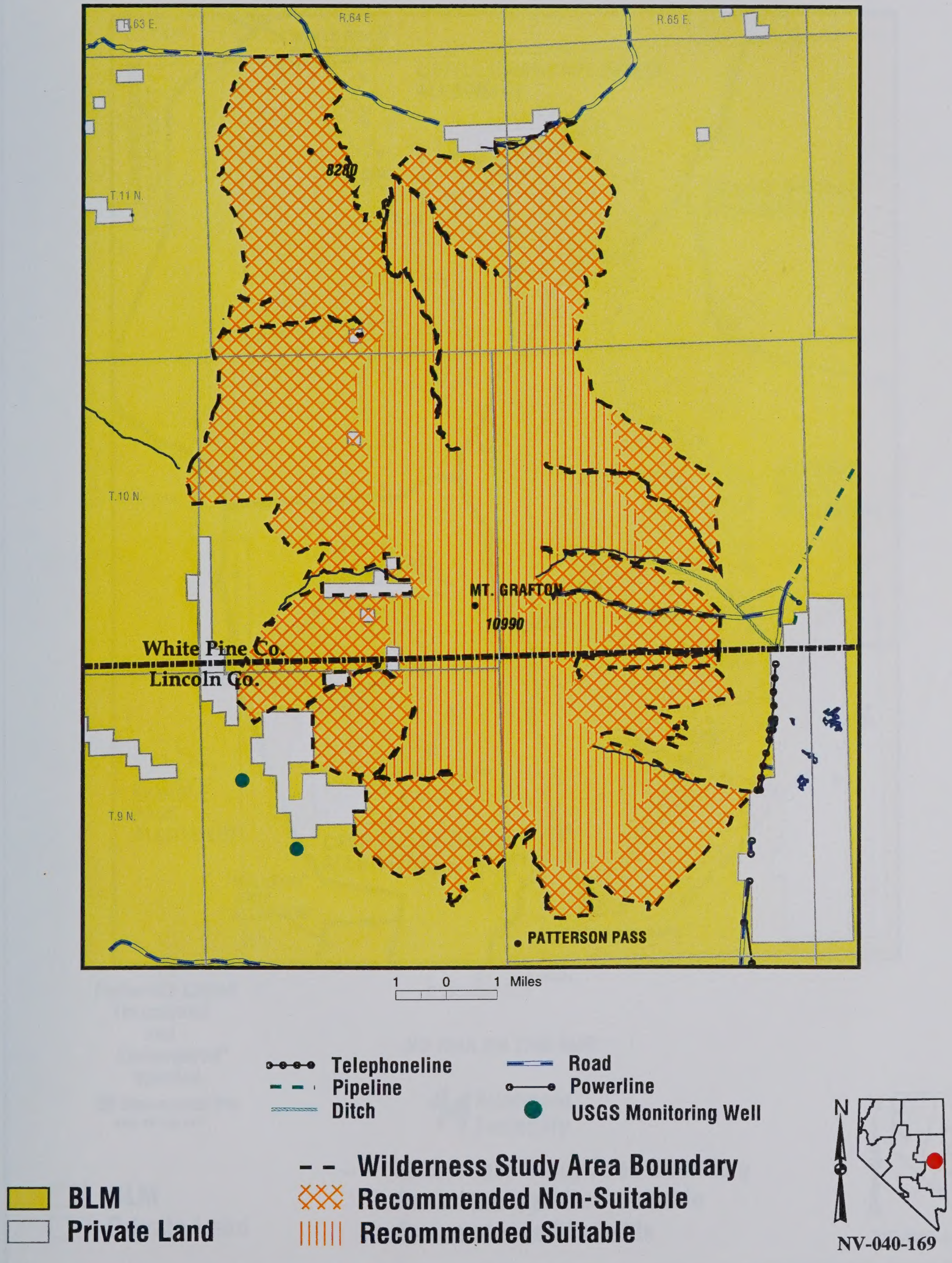

R.63 E.
R.64 E.
R.65 E.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
8280
MT. GRAFTON
10990
White Pine Co.
Lincoln Co.
PATTERSON PASS
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-040-169

Mt. Grafton Wilderness Study Area
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.63 E.
R.64 E.
R.65 E.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
8280
MT. GRAFTON
10990
White Pine Co.
Lincoln Co.
PATTERSON PASS
0.8 0 0.8 Miles
Trough
Guzzler
Cattleguard
Pipeline
Fence
Seeding Area
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-040-169

Mt. Grafton Wilderness Study Area

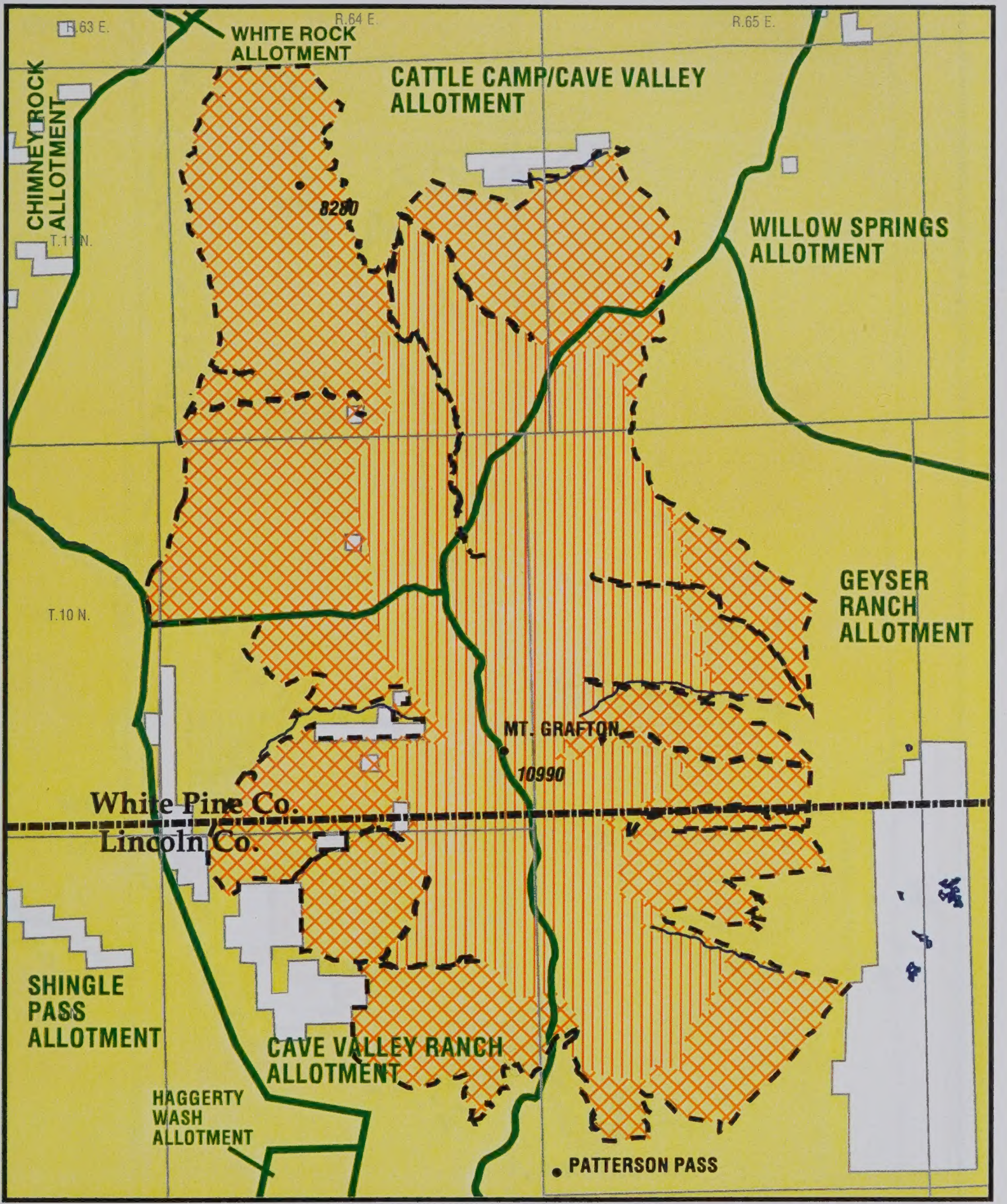
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.63 E.
R.64 E.
R.65 E.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
8280
MT. GRAFTON
10990
White Pine Co.
Lincoln Co.
PATTERSON PASS
1 0 1 Miles
Telephoneline
Pipeline
Ditch
Road
Powerline
USGS Monitoring Well
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-040-169

10/25/2000

Mt. Grafton Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.63 E.
R.64 E.
R.65 E.
WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
CATTLE CAMP/CAVE VALLEY ALLOTMENT
CHIMNEY ROCK ALLOTMENT
T.11 N.
8280
WILLOW SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
GEYSER RANCH ALLOTMENT
T.10 N.
MT. GRAFTON
10990
White Pine Co.
Lincoln Co.
SHINGLE PASS ALLOTMENT
CAVE VALLEY RANCH ALLOTMENT
HAGGERTY WASH ALLOTMENT
PATTERSON PASS

1 0 1 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP

NO HMA ON THIS MAP

Allotment Boundary

- **BLM**
- **Private Land**

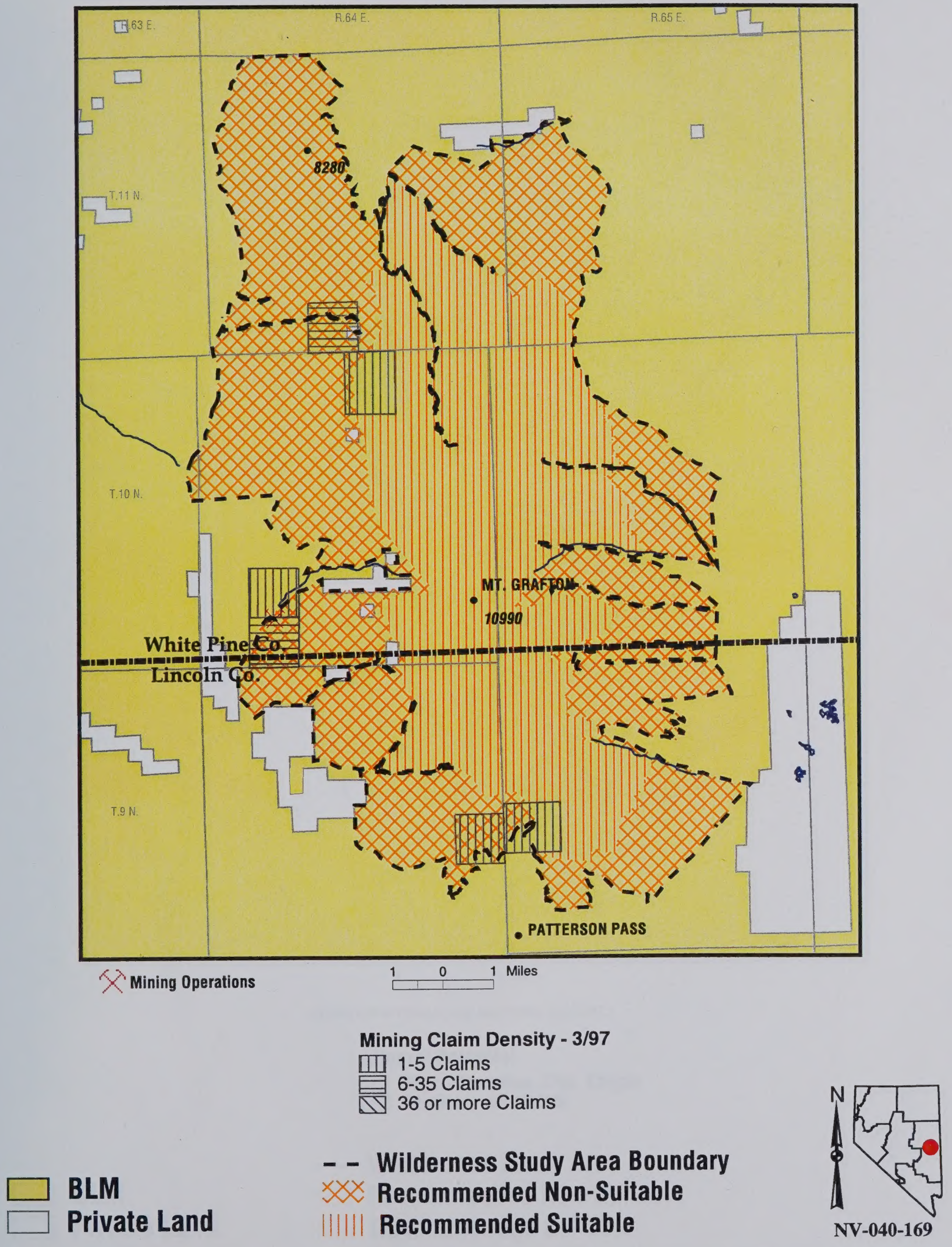
- – – **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
- ▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**
- ||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-169

10/25/2000

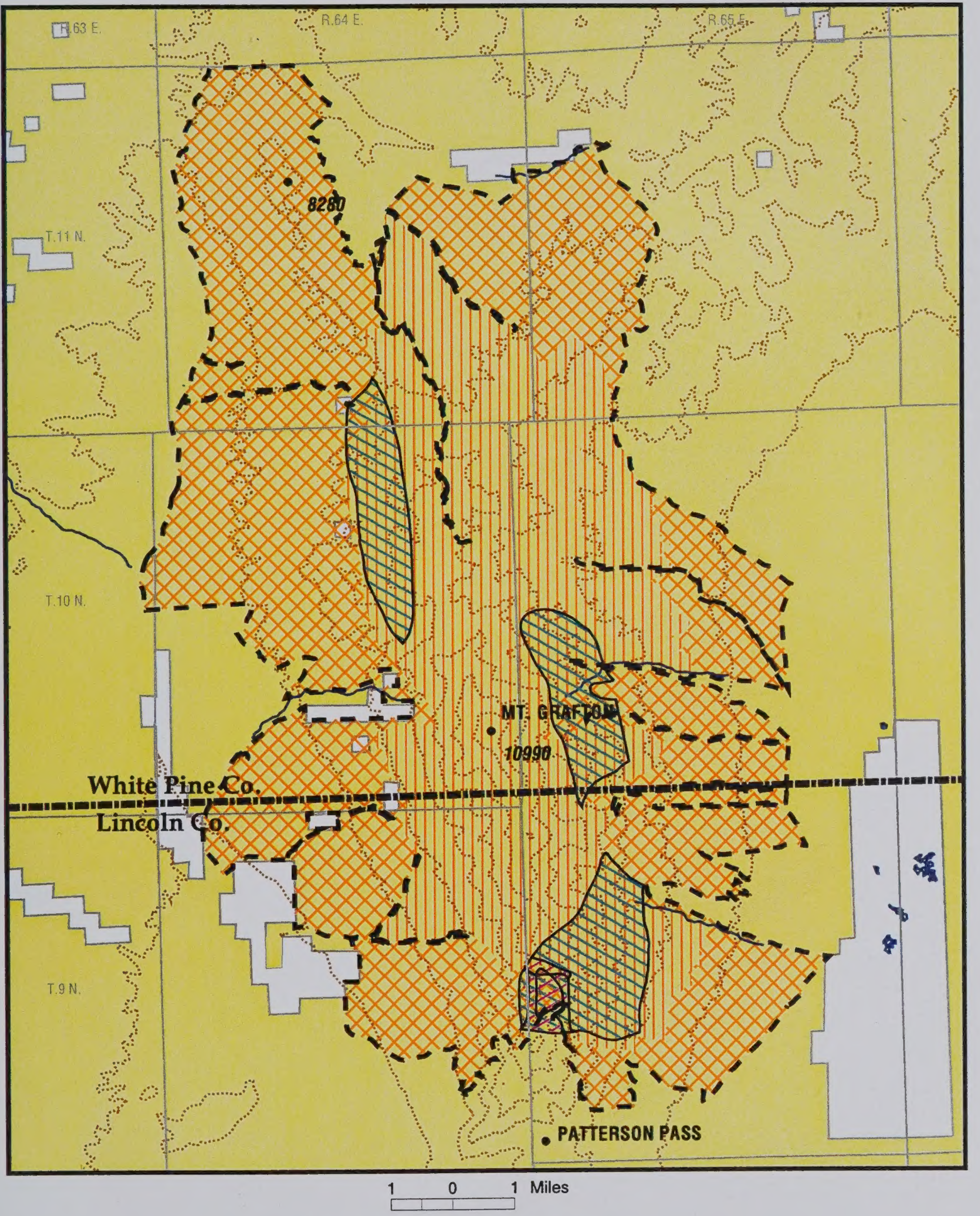
Mt. Grafton Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.63 E.
R.64 E.
R.65 E.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
8280
MT. GRAFTON
10990
White Pine Co.
Lincoln Co.
PATTERSON PASS
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-169

Mt. Grafton Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.63 E.
R.64 E.
R.65 E.
T.11 N.
T.10 N.
T.9 N.
8280
MT. GRAFTON
10990
White Pine Co.
Lincoln Co.
PATTERSON PASS
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **High - Tungsten, Zinc, Copper**

▨ **Medium - All metals**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

▩ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

▥ **Recommended Suitable**

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

NV-040-169

FAR SOUTH EGANS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 53,224 acres

The Far South Egans WSA (NV-040-172) is located in east-central Nevada within Lincoln and Nye Counties. It lies about 50 road miles south of Ely, 200 miles north of Las Vegas, along U.S. Highway 318. The WSA is comprised entirely of public lands with no State or private inholdings. The boundaries of the WSA consist almost entirely of improved dirt roads. The northwest portion of the WSA is bounded by the Shingle Pass Road. The east boundary is formed by several jeep trails and roads along the west side of Cave Valley. The Trough Spring Canyon Road forms the unit's southern boundary. The west boundary generally follows the Highway 318 right-of-way with portions formed by other roads, unnatural features, or legal boundaries.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 42,316 acres recommended for wilderness 10,908 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for wilderness designation is due to the quality of wilderness values, the lack of competing uses or other resource values, and the area's manageability.

The area recommended for wilderness is in the nearly pristine southern end of the Egan Range. The area's ruggedness has been primarily responsible for the perpetuation of its naturalness, and also contributes to its excellent scenic quality, especially on the west side where sheer rock cliffs rise up from small, hard-to-reach canyons. The view from on top is even more impressive. From the highest peak on the north end (elevation above 9,800 feet), the ridgeline slowly falls as it extends to the south; to both the east and the west, the land falls abruptly to elevations below 5,400 feet. Many portions are forested, not only by pinyon and juniper which are typical in this region, but also by bristlecone and ponderosa pines which are limited to the higher elevations.

This wild, untrammeled setting provides many excellent opportunities for recreation. Hiking, camping and backpacking are demanding because of the terrain, but very rewarding and pleasurable because of the area's special features (bristlecone and ponderosa pines, an abandoned historic sawmill, high scenic values) and because of the impression that the many hidden places of the area have never before been visited. Nature study opportunities are very good in the WSA. Wildlife include deer, elk, mountain lions, and many raptors, such as golden eagles and ferruginous hawks.

The exhilaration of discovery extends into the mountains themselves. Whipple Cave, located on the northwest of the WSA, is a limestone solution cave with approximately 1,000 feet of known passages. Cave decorations include rimstone dams, draperies, and a huge column over 30 feet tall. Passage through the cave's double sink entrance requires a technical 70-foot descent. Technical climbers may also find challenge all along the western side of the WSA. Numerous rock outcrops and cliffs offer opportunities for a wide range of climbing skills. All of these recreational opportunities are available in an area where solitude is a guaranteed quality. The wildness of the area, its rugged topography and excellent vegetative screening, its many hidden recesses provide unparalleled opportunities for solitude.

Designation of the recommended area as wilderness would create very few conflicts with other, competing resources. This rugged portion does not lend itself to many uses, such as wood harvest and livestock grazing. There is very little mineral interest in the area, no mining claims are located in it, and oil and gas development seems to be a remote possibility. In addition, the area has public support and little opposition.

Two portions of the WSA were not recommended for wilderness for a variety of reasons. Portion A, on the

west periphery of the WSA is mostly gently sloping alluvial fans and was recommended for uses other than wilderness because of the lower wilderness values and unnatural features present. This area is penetrated by two cherrystemmed roads and 11 ways totalling 19 miles, as well as three cherrystemmed gravel pits. The area is lacking in topographic and vegetative relief and the unnatural features are easily seen.

Portion B, on the east side of the WSA was not recommended due to its relatively open nature with lower wilderness values, manageability concerns and conflicts with woodland products harvest. Several cherrystemmed routes extend into this portion, partially separating it from the suitable area. In addition, the easily accessible slopes have been used for limited woodcutting in the past and some unpermitted use is expected to continue even with wilderness designation. The area is very suitable for commercial fuelwood and Christmas tree harvesting.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The Far South Egans WSA as a whole is in a very natural state. That portion recommended suitable is in an almost pristine condition. Here, the rough terrain has held man's encroachment at bay. Forbidding cliffs, hidden caves and shelters, thick forests, and deeply cut canyons all enhance the primitive feeling of the WSA. Within Sawmill Canyon in the suitable portion of the WSA are the remnants of old logging operations from the turn of the century. In the many years that have passed since the logging occurred, the area has rehabilitated itself, and the few traces that remain are considered a special feature of historical value. In addition, one small, camouflaged guzzler for bighorn sheep was located within the suitable portion.

B. Solitude: The Far South Egans WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude. Topographic screening is provided by many canyons and by the rugged layout of the high mountain country. Adding to this is the large size of the area, dense tree cover in many portions, and good configuration. Also enhancing solitude opportunities is the lack of destination points (with the exception of Whipple Cave) that would serve to concentrate use. Recreational use would tend to be dispersed throughout the area, helping the natural carrying capacity of the area absorb a number of users while still allowing for solitude. The alluvial fans, most of which are not recommended for wilderness, provide less opportunity for solitude because of their lack of vegetative and topographic screening.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist in the Far South Egans WSA. One of the foremost is caving in Whipple Cave on the west side of the WSA. Several unconfirmed reports exist of other caves in the WSA. Many other recreation opportunities abound in the area. The dramatic topography of the mountains make for difficult but highly enjoyable hiking, camping, and backpacking. The extensive vistas of the area, especially as seen from the ridgeline, enhances all such opportunities.

The ponderosa and bristlecone pines occur together in one portion of the area, an unusual commingling, of interest to the studiers of nature. Other recreation opportunities include technical and nontechnical rock climbing and nature study. The combination of the quality and different types of recreation available in the WSA make for outstanding opportunities.

D. Special Features: Several special features exist in the Far South Egans WSA. The aforementioned ponderosa and bristlecone pines are special features because of their relative scarcity in this part of the region. Bristlecone pines are well-known as the oldest living plant species, and their existence in the WSA is especially significant because of the very low elevation at which they occur (as low as 7,000 feet) and their association with ponderosa pines in one portion. The ponderosa pines are a relict population from earlier climatological conditions. The remains of logging operations serve as a significant point of historic interest, a reminder of earlier times in Nevada when then-plentiful stands of ponderosa pines were heavily logged by small operators. Whipple Cave is also a special feature, an excellent example of limestone

solutioning. For the geologic sightseer, the vertical descent into the cave is well worth the effort.

4. **MANAGEABILITY** (the area must be capable of being managed to preserve its wilderness character)

The Far South Egans WSA is manageable as wilderness. Manageability is enhanced by the lack of private and State inholdings within the WSA. In addition, no mining claims exist within the WSA and no mineral exploration or development is anticipated.

Manageability of the area recommended for wilderness would be very easy. Further enhancing its manageability is the nature of the area: steep, rugged, abruptly rising from the surrounding valleys; characteristics that would cause the area to be largely self-protecting. The only exceptions occur in the north end where the land rises more gently and access is already available via three cherrystemmed routes and just south of the Shingle Pass Road. Some patrol efforts would be necessary to ensure that vehicles do not stray from existing routes. The Shingle Pass road creates a good northern WSA boundary.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment for the Far South Egans WSA in 1987 (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1728-C). The report identifies the majority of the portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness as having a low potential for the occurrence of all metals. Two small areas on the southern and western fringes of the area recommended for wilderness were identified as having moderate potential for the occurrence of mineral resources. Moderate potential for cadmium, molybdenum, lead, and zinc exists in the southern part of the study area related to a faulted jasperoid vein in Trough Spring Canyon. The confidence level for this rating is low. Potential for energy resources (oil, gas, geothermal) within the study area is low, based on exposed rock units. High geothermal potential is still recognized in the area of Butterfield Springs on the southwest border of the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

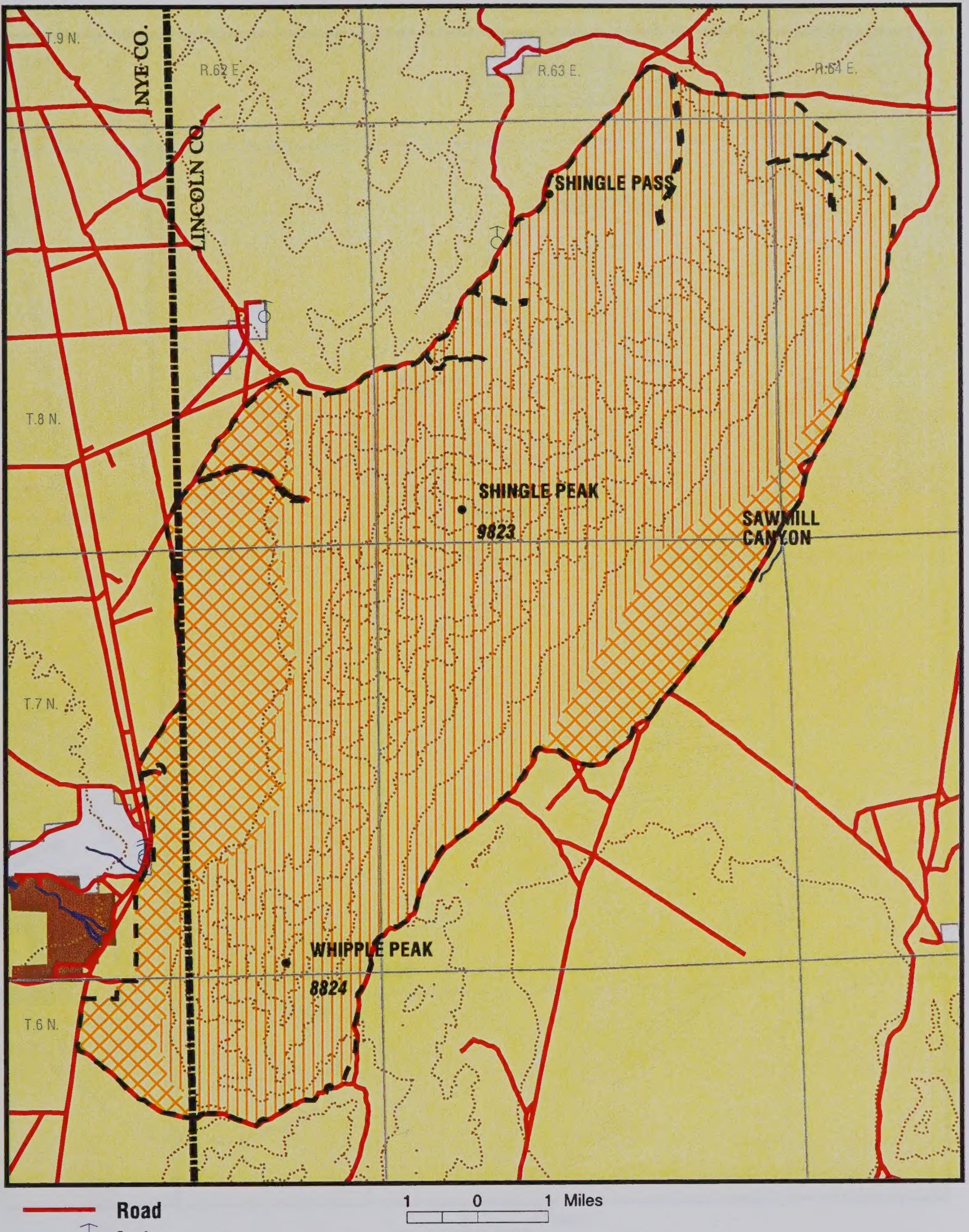
During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between April 8 to July 8, 1983 a total of nine comments were received specifically addressing the Far South Egans WSA. Of those, six were written comments and three were oral testimonies. In general, all but one commentor supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA, while the remaining commentor mentioned the Far South Egans WSA but took no formal position on wilderness designation. The main points mentioned in support of this area as wilderness were its scenery, ruggedness and lack of conflicts.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and the Department of the Air Force all commented on the draft EIS. None of these agencies had a jurisdictional conflict with any of the alternatives. The Governor of Nevada as well as the State Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, and Historic Preservation and Archeology, support wilderness stating the unit "appears suitable for designation." The Nevada Department of Wildlife supports wilderness as well, stating "wildlife conflicts are not severe and designation may enhance populations by providing future protective measures. The Lincoln County Conservation District stated that the "area has some possibility for limited wilderness activity where mineral enrichment is not evident and the vegetation is closer to original condition.

One letter was received on the final EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness recommendation.

3/13/00

Far South Egans Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


T.9 N.
NYE CO.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
LINCOLN CO.
SHINGLE PASS
T.8 N.
SHINGLE PEAK
9823
SAWMILL CANYON
T.7 N.
WHIPPLE PEAK
8824
T.6 N.
Road
Spring
1
0
1
Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟫 **Other Agency**

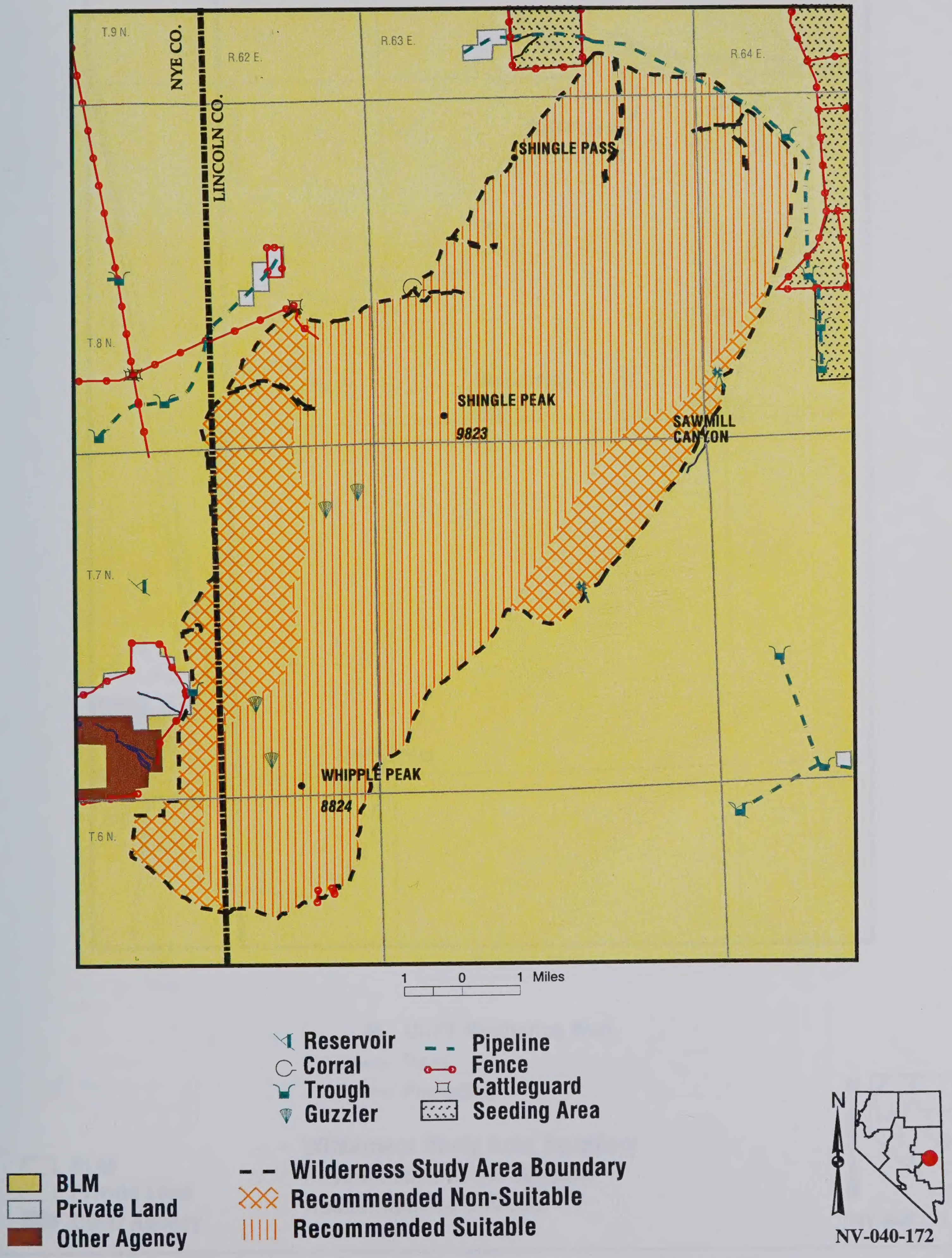
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**
||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-172

3/13/00

Far South Egans Wilderness Study Area

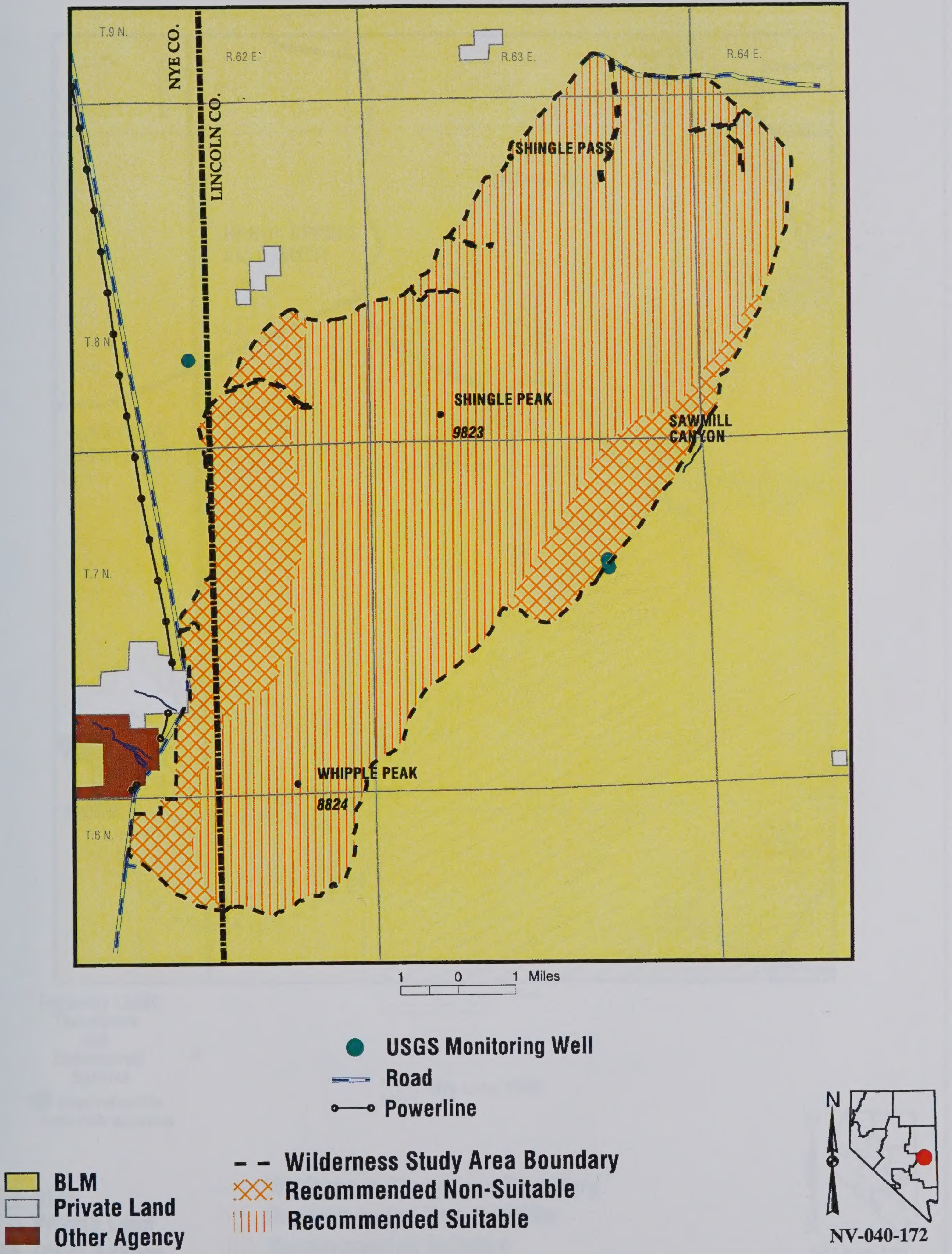
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


T.9 N.
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
SHINGLE PASS
T.8 N.
SHINGLE PEAK
9823
SAWMILL CANYON
T.7 N.
WHIPPLE PEAK
8824
T.6 N.
1 0 1 Miles
Reservoir
Corral
Trough
Guzzler
Pipeline
Fence
Cattleguard
Seeding Area
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-172

3/13/00

Far South Egans Wilderness Study Area

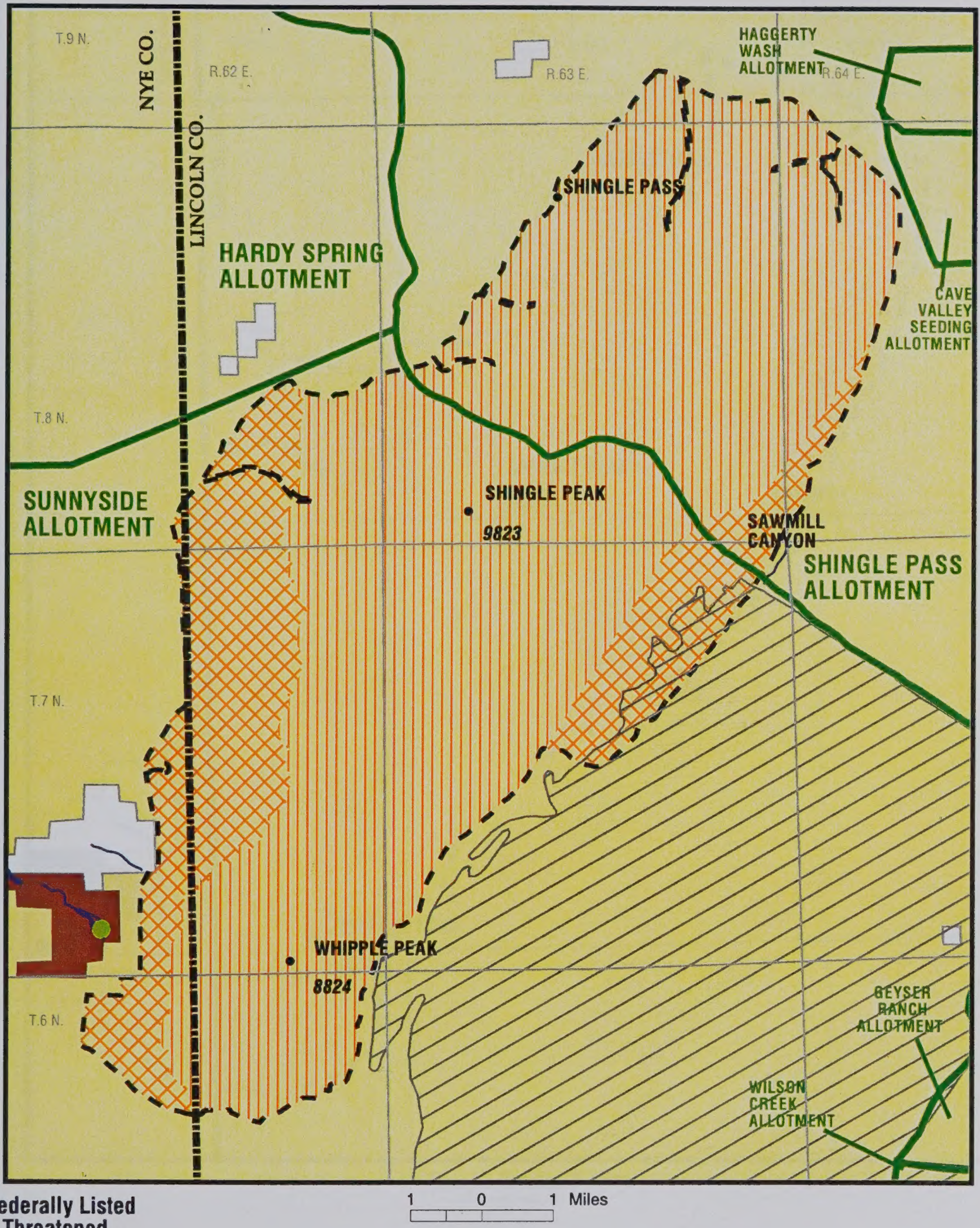
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


T.9 N.
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
SHINGLE PASS
T.8 N.
SHINGLE PEAK
9823
SAWMILL CANYON
T.7 N.
WHIPPLE PEAK
8824
T.6 N.
1 0 1 Miles
● USGS Monitoring Well
Road
Powerline
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-172

3/13/00

Far South Egans Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


T.9 N.
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
HAGGERTY WASH ALLOTMENT
R.64 E.
SHINGLE PASS
HARDY SPRING ALLOTMENT
CAVE VALLEY SEEDING ALLOTMENT
T.8 N.
SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT
SHINGLE PEAK
9823
SAWMILL CANYON
SHINGLE PASS ALLOTMENT
T.7 N.
WHIPPLE PEAK
8824
T.6 N.
GEYSER RANCH ALLOTMENT
WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT
1 0 1 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site
- White River Spinedace

▨ Dry Lake HMA

🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
🟥 Other Agency

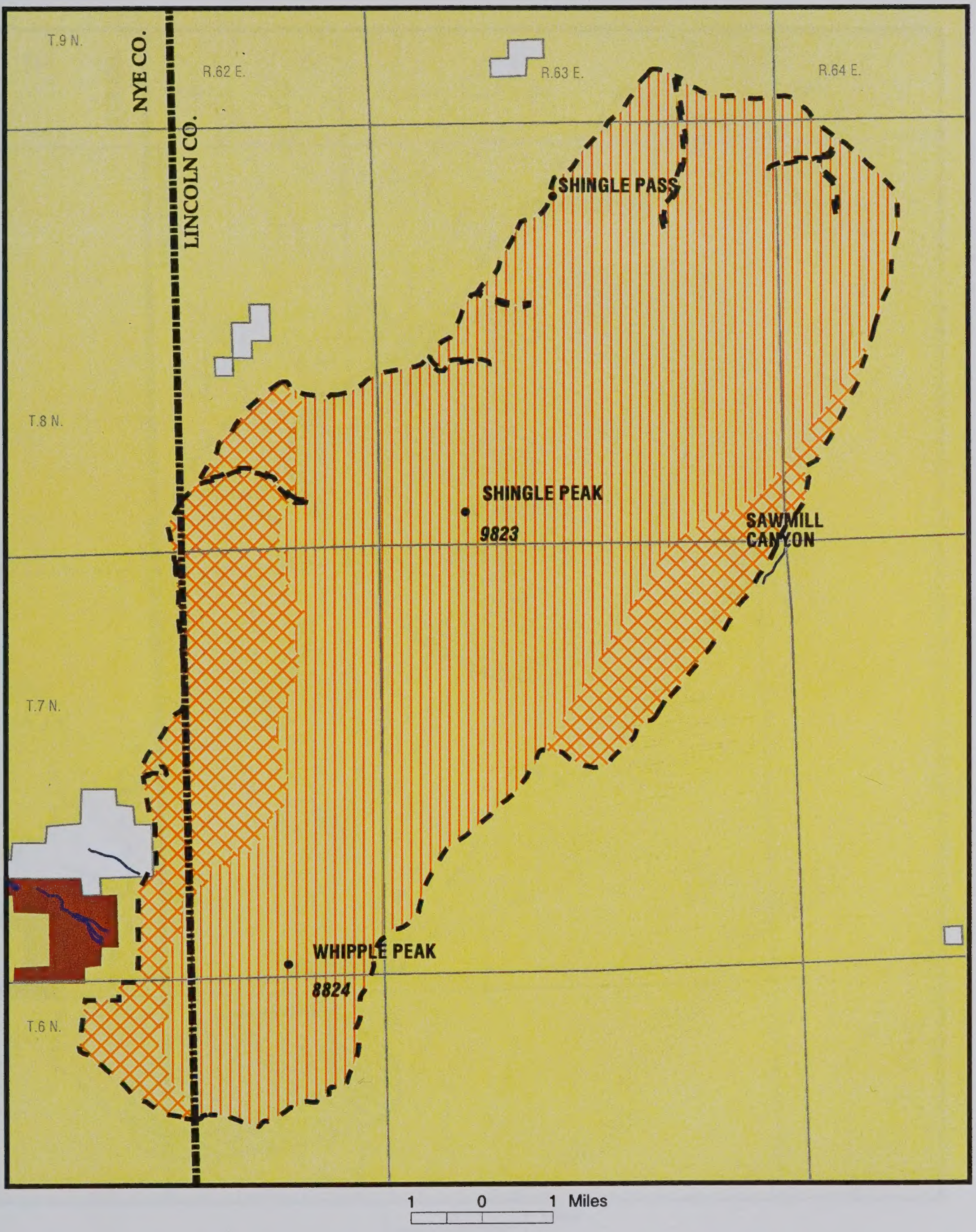
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▩ Recommended Non-Suitable
▥ Recommended Suitable

NV-040-172

3/13/00

Far South Egans Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


T.9 N.
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
SHINGLE PASS
T.8 N.
SHINGLE PEAK
9823
SAWMILL CANYON
T.7 N.
WHIPPLE PEAK
8824
T.6 N.
1 0 1 Miles

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟫 **Other Agency**

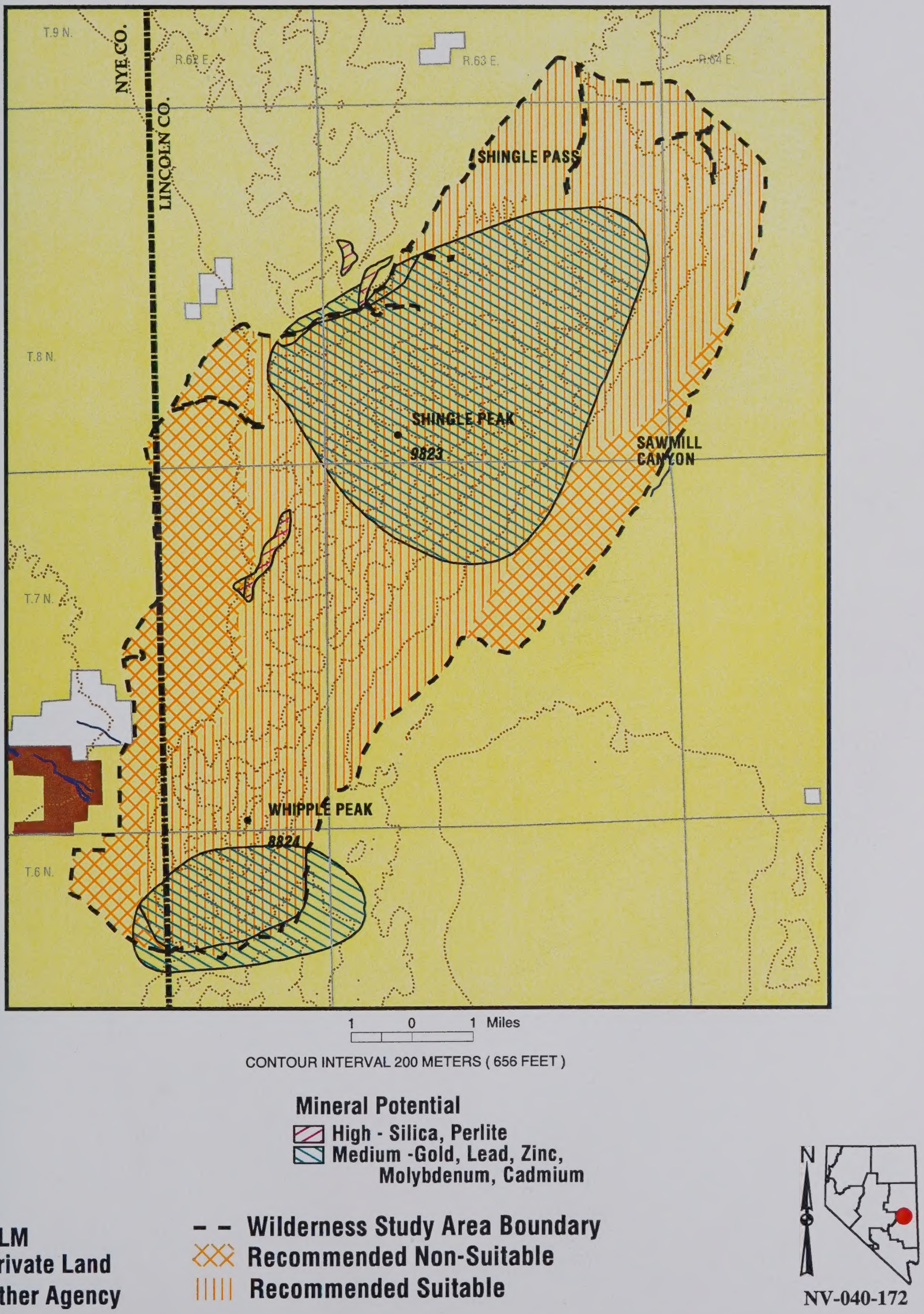
– – **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**
||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-172

3/13/00

Far South Egans Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


T.9 N.
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
SHINGLE PASS
T.8 N.
SHINGLE PEAK
9823
SAWMILL CANYON
T.7 N.
WHIPPLE PEAK
8824
T.6 N.
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Mineral Potential
High - Silica, Perlite
Medium -Gold, Lead, Zinc, Molybdenum, Cadmium
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-172

FORTIFICATION RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 41,615 acres

The Fortification Range WSA (NV-040-177) is located in Lincoln County about 50 miles southeast of Ely. The entire WSA is comprised of 41,615 acres of public land with no private or State inholdings. A parcel of private land at Indian Springs forms a portion of the northeast boundary. Within Spring Valley, a jeep trail that follows the base of the range form the eastern boundary of the WSA. The southern boundary is formed by the Horse Corral Pass and Bitter Well roads. The Travis seeding and Travis seeding fence within Lake Valley define the western boundary while the northern boundary is defined by a primitive jeep trail that traverses the range from the North Gouge Eye Well to Indian Springs.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 0 acres recommended for wilderness
41,615 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is to release the entire area for uses other than wilderness. The Fortification Range was recommended for uses other than wilderness because the WSA's high wilderness values are limited to a small area in the north end of the WSA around the Cottonwood Canyon drainage. The size (4,800 acres) was not judged sufficient to justify a wilderness recommendation. The remainder of the WSA has relatively low wilderness values. Few conflicts exist with this area although competing uses related to woodland products harvest and vegetation conversion do exist.

While superb scenic values and opportunities for outstanding primitive and unconfined recreation are recognized within the WSA, they are found concentrated within a relatively limited area in the north end of the unit. As one moves south through the range from Cottonwood Canyon, the quality of recreation opportunities quickly declines. In contrast to the natural diversity of Cottonwood Canyon, the remainder of the WSA is characterized by a dense, less diverse, monotypic pinyon-juniper woodland which is common throughout this part of the Great Basin. Scenery is less spectacular and wildlife is less abundant and diverse. Opportunities for recreation exist, but their quality is not especially noteworthy.

The recommendation was also made in consideration of the fact that the fairly accessible nature of the WSA and the dense pinyon cover lends itself to woodland products harvest and vegetation manipulation to enhance wildlife diversity and change range conditions to increase forage. Both the east and west sides of the WSA have been identified for conversion to increase forage and improve habitat by both livestock and wildlife interests.

The 4,800 acre area surrounding Cottonwood Canyon has been proposed for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness**: Most of the Fortification Range is in a completely natural condition. The thick forests and rugged volcanic rocks have helped preserve the area's naturalness.

Intrusions in the WSA are limited to the periphery of the unit. The east bench is penetrated at several points by cherystemmed routes, most less than a mile long. These are all well-screened by dense tree cover (most are used only for access by hunters, trappers, and pine nut gatherers) and have very little impact on the naturalness of the area as a whole. In addition, two roads, each about 3 miles long, extend into the area, one on the south end in Smiley Canyon, and the other on the west in the Gouge Eye. Both of these are minimally intrusive as they meander among the trees, well screened by the woodland canopy.

A few range developments exist within the WSA. A 1-mile section of fence extends into the south end of the WSA and is well screened. Cottonwood Spring in the northeast is developed and a pipeline extends down the canyon to a water tank located outside of the WSA. Other developments, include two small corrals, two fenceline tie-offs (less than 1,000 feet in length), and an abandoned pipeline. Due to the dense tree cover, these developments have little affect on the naturalness of the WSA as a whole.

B. Solitude: Excellent opportunities for solitude exist in the WSA, but fall short of outstanding. Good vegetative cover exists in nearly all parts of the WSA due to the dense pinyon-juniper woodland. Topographic screening is provided by the side canyons, however, with the exception of the northern portion of the unit the mountain range is gentle in relief with few outcrops and is composed of a single ridgeline. Overall, these characteristics, combined with good unit configuration and size, make for many 'secluded spot' where visitors may escape all visible and audible evidence of man.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation exist in the Fortification Range WSA mainly as a result of the outstanding scenery on the north end. Here, hiking, camping, and nature study are enhance by the extraordinary setting provided by the weathered rock formations. Opportunities for observing the geology of the area constitute a separate class of high quality recreation opportunities in themselves. As one moves south through the range from Cottonwood Canyon, the quality of recreation opportunities quickly declines. The diverse ecosystem of Cottonwood Canyon changes to a much less diverse pinyon-juniper ecosystem. Scenery is less spectacular, wildlife is less abundant and diverse. Opportunities for recreation exist, of course, but their quality is not especially noteworthy.

D. Special Features: The unique geologic formations which provide for the scenic quality of the WSA's north end is considered a special feature. The ponderosa pines located in and around Cottonwood Canyon are unusual in eastern Nevada; remnant populations of larger stands that existed under different climatological conditions. They also serve as a seed source and a source of genetic diversity, and contribute as one element of the northern area's scenic beauty.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The Fortification Range WSA can be managed to preserve its wilderness values in the long term. No private lands occur within the WSA, and no mining claims are located within it. Portions of the lower slopes of the range are leased for oil and gas and it is anticipated that a wildcat oil well would be drilled along the fringe of the WSA even with wilderness designation. Wilderness values would be temporarily lost on approximately 3 acres as a result. Most exploration interest is focused on the adjacent valleys (Lake Valley and Spring Valley) to the exclusion of the mountains. Occasional patrols would be necessary during the autumn hunting season to ensure vehicle use is confined to existing roads or trails.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The Fortification Range WSA has been assigned low mineral potential. No mining claims exist within the WSA. Oil and gas potential in the WSA has also been rated as low based on lack of geologic evidence. Some geophysical exploration has taken place on the western fringe of the unit in connection with exploration efforts in Lake Valley, where interest is centered.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between April 8 to July 8, 1983, a total of 38 comments were received specifically addressing the Fortification Range. Of those, 28 were written comments and 10 were oral testimonies. In general, 32 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA. Five commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA, while one

commentor mentioned the Fortification Range but took no formal position on wilderness designation. The majority of comments received were from California and Nevada, with three comments coming from the local area.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the area's scenic rock formations, habitat for raptors and mountain lions, dense forests, unique geology and lack of conflicts. The commentors opposing wilderness designation stated that designation was unnecessary because the area would always have wilderness characteristics due to its rugged setting. Concerns were also expressed over access closures; long term benefits to wildlife populations; and lack of size.

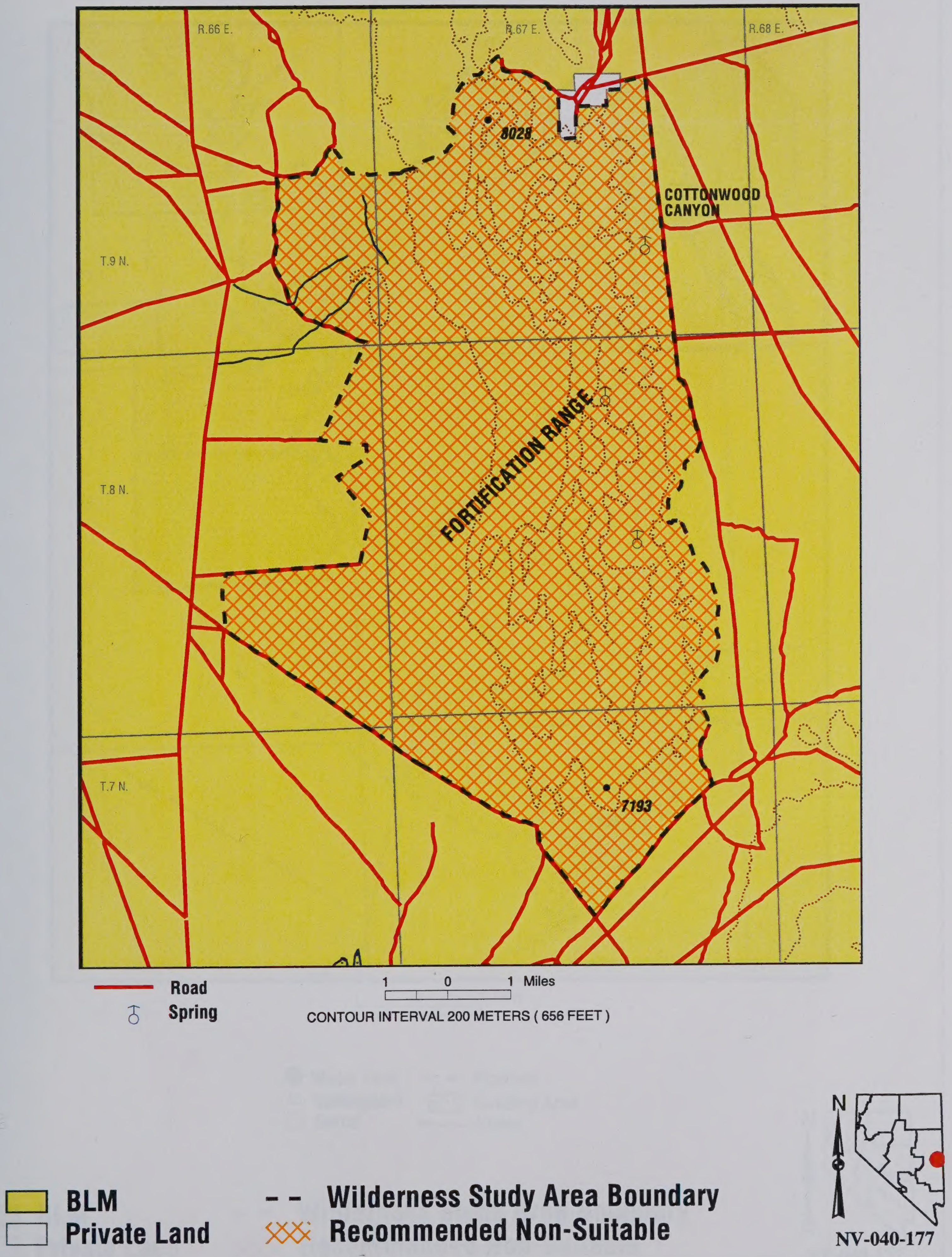
The Nevada Governor in his consistency review stated that the scenic values were outweighed by other resource conflicts. The Nevada Divisions of Lands, Forestry, Parks, and Historic Preservation and Archaeology in a joint comment, support the proposed action of No Wilderness although no specifics were given. The Department of Wildlife also supported No Wilderness stating "the area does not appear to provide high wilderness values nor would stringent protective measures enhance existing wildlife populations."

The Lincoln County Conservation District favored no wilderness and stated that although there are some unique land formations with aesthetic appeal, they are too small for wilderness designation.

One letter was received on the final EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness recommendation.

Fortification Range Wilderness Study Area

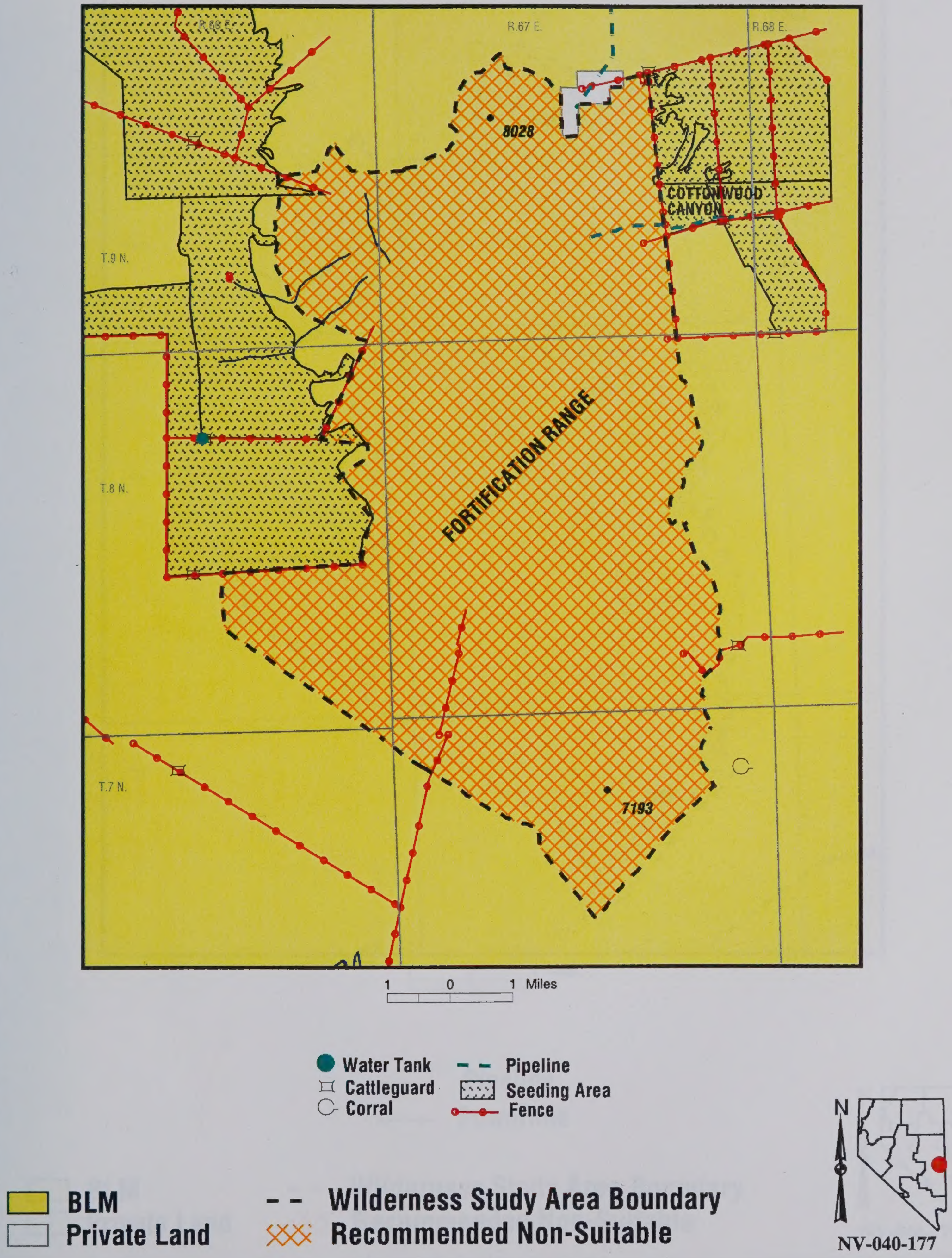
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.66 E.
R.67 E.
R.68 E.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
8028
COTTONWOOD CANYON
FORTIFICATION RANGE
7193
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-177

10/25/2000

Fortification Range Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES

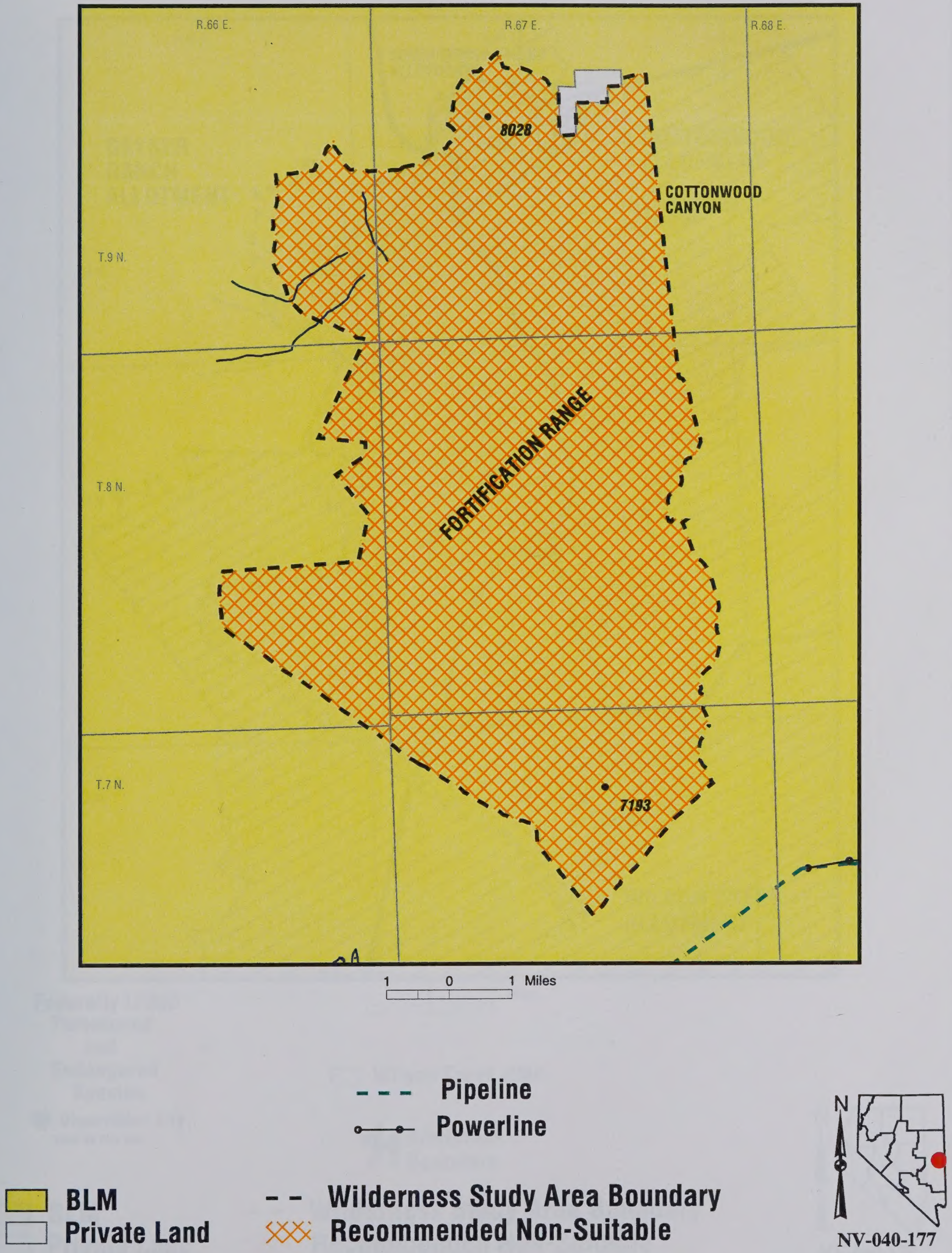

R.66 E.
R.67 E.
R.68 E.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
8028
7193
COTTONWOOD CANYON
FORTIFICATION RANGE
1 0 1 Miles
Water Tank
Cattleguard
Corral
Pipeline
Seeding Area
Fence
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N

NV-040-177

10/25/2000

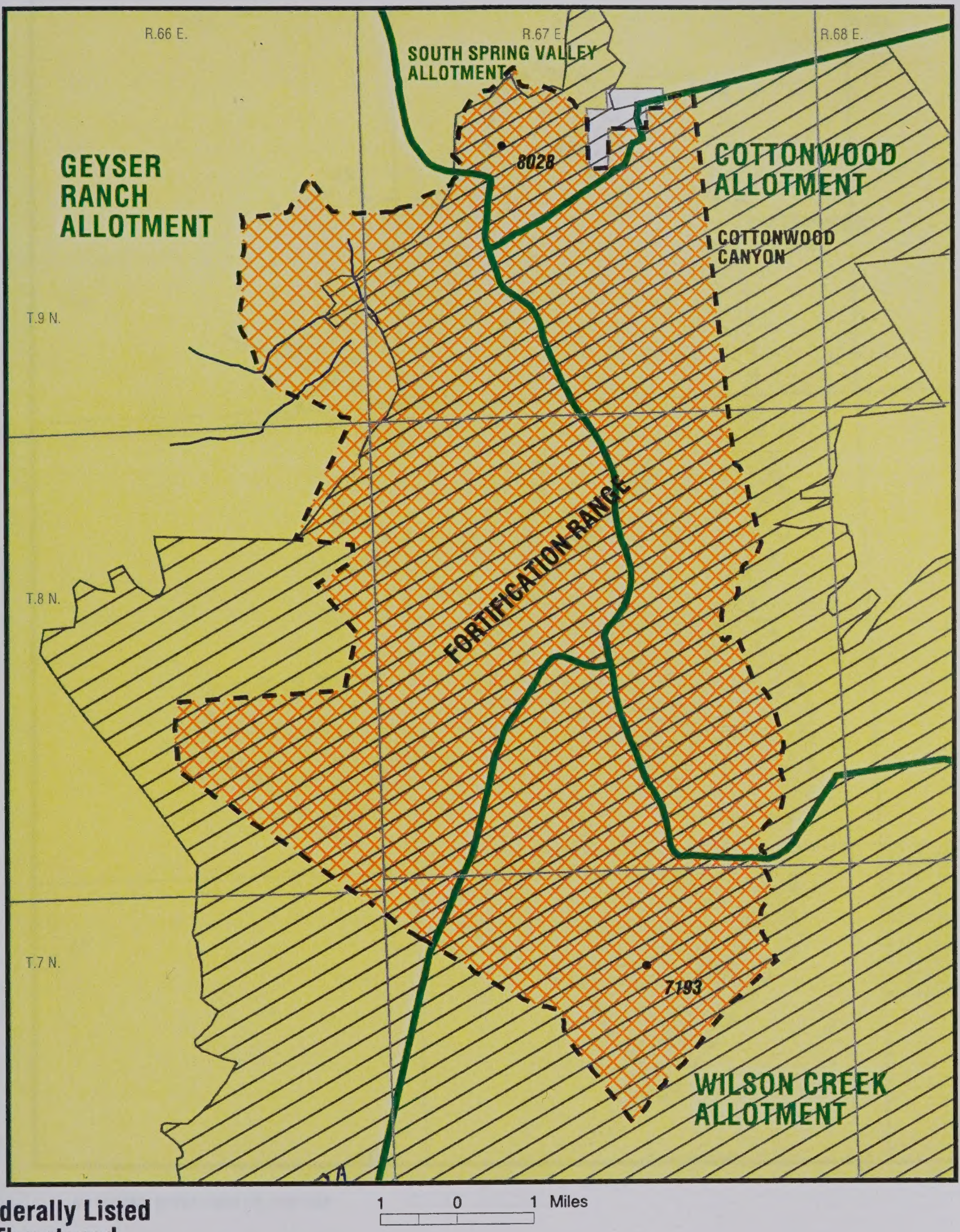
Fortification Range Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.66 E.
R.67 E.
R.68 E.
8028
COTTONWOOD CANYON
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
FORTIFICATION RANGE
T.7 N.
7193
1 0 1 Miles
Pipeline
Powerline
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-177

10/25/2000

Fortification Range Wilderness Study Area
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.66 E.
R.67 E.
R.68 E.
SOUTH SPRING VALLEY ALLOTMENT
GEYSER RANCH ALLOTMENT
COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT
COTTONWOOD CANYON
8028
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
FORTIFICATION RANGE
7193
WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT
1
0
1
Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP

▨ Wilson Creek HMA

Allotment Boundary

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

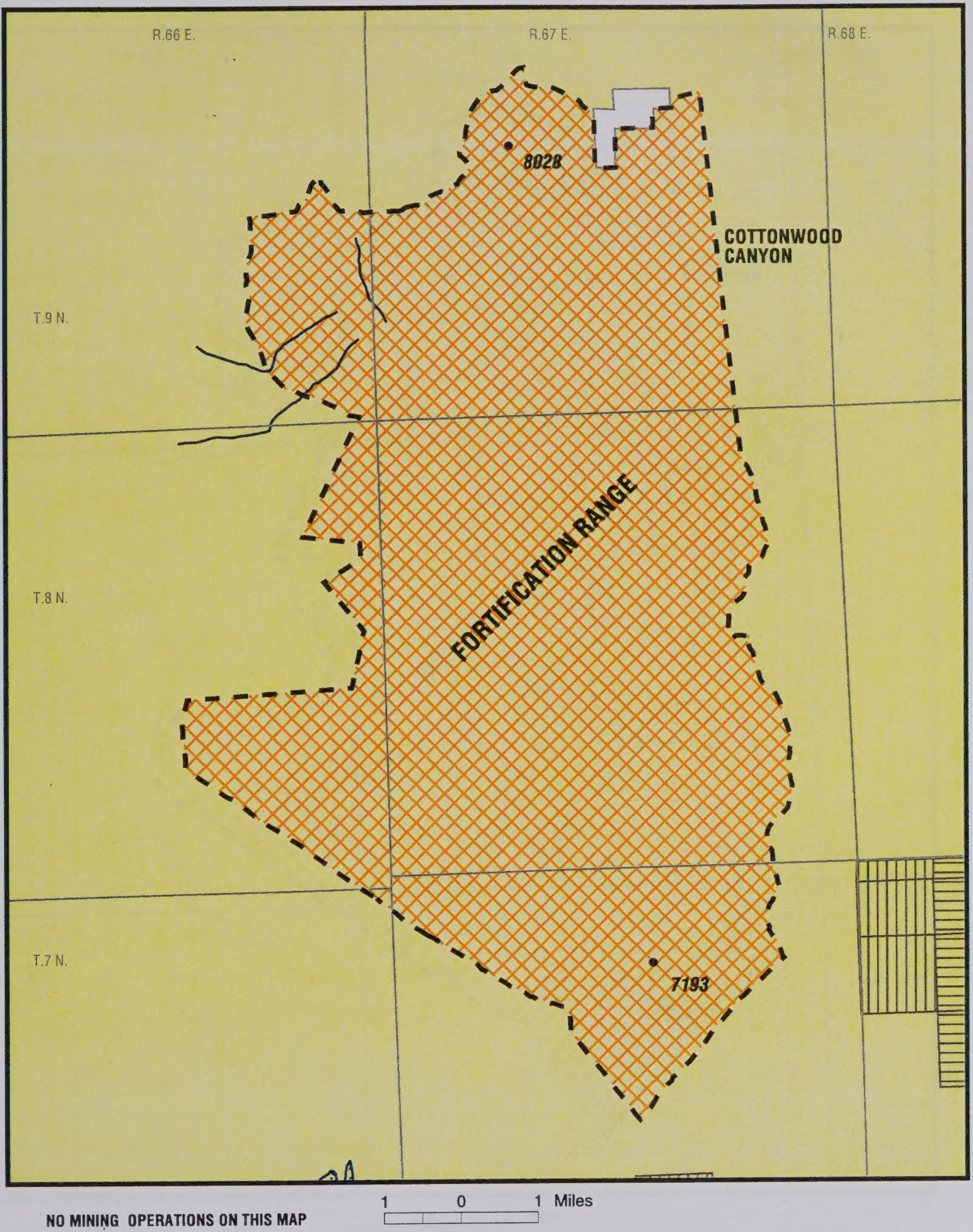
-- Wilderness Study Area Boundary

XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-040-177

10/25/2000

Fortification Range Wilderness Study Area
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.66 E.
R.67 E.
R.68 E.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
8028
COTTONWOOD CANYON
FORTIFICATION RANGE
7193
1 0 1 Miles

NO MINING OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

Mining Claim Density - 3/97

- ▥ 1-5 Claims
- ▤ 6-35 Claims
- ▨ 36 or more Claims

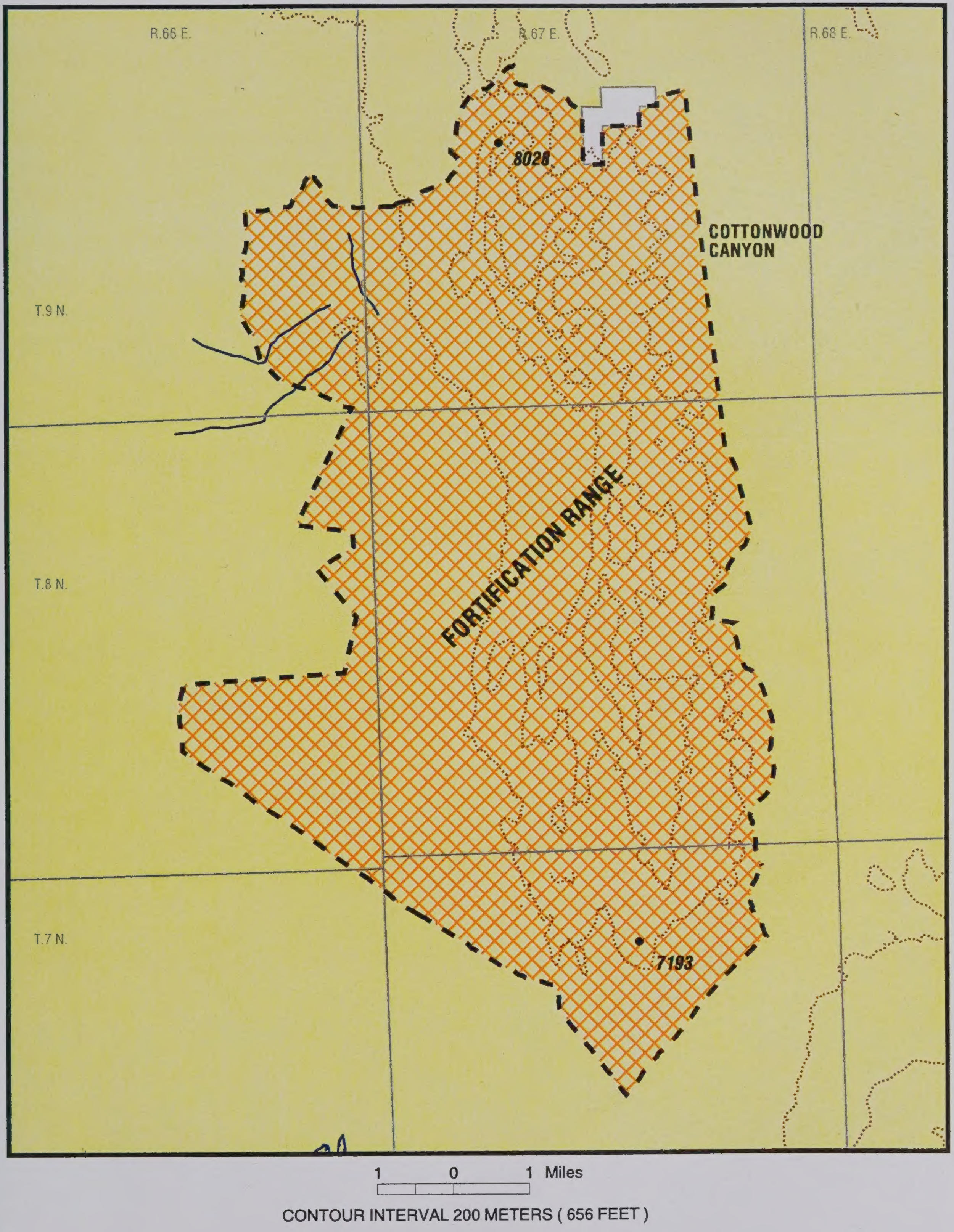
🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-040-177

Fortification Range Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.66 E.
R.67 E.
R.68 E.
T.9 N.
T.8 N.
T.7 N.
8028
COTTONWOOD CANYON
FORTIFICATION RANGE
7193
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-040-177

TABLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 35,958 acres

The Table Mountain WSA (NV-040-197) is located in Lincoln County in east-central Nevada within the Wilson Creek Mountain Range. The WSA includes 35,958 acres of BLM lands and surrounds 400 acres of private lands. The nearest incorporated town is Pioche, Nevada, located 25 miles to the south. The boundary of the WSA is comprised of a series of connecting roads, jeep trails and private parcels.

The northwestern boundary of the WSA is formed by the Atlanta-Lake Valley Road (County Road 431). The southwestern boundary of the unit is formed by the Mount Wilson Road (BLM road 4045). A 3.5-mile jeep trail completes this boundary by connecting the Atlanta-Lake Valley Road with the Mount Wilson Road. The southern and southeastern boundary is comprised of a 1/2-mile segment of the Bowling Fence and private parcel boundaries inter-connected by jeep trails. The central portion of the eastern boundary of the WSA is a defined by a series of point-to-point connections and jeep trails circumventing unnatural features between private parcels. The northeastern boundary of the Table Mountain WSA is formed by the Rosencrans Creek Road. The northern boundary is formed by two jeep trails which connect the Rosencrans Creek Road with the Atlanta-Lake Valley Road. A 1/2-mile segment of this boundary is point-to-point between the terminal ends of the two jeep trails.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 0 acres recommended for wilderness 35,958 acres recommended for nonwilderness

Comprised of the expansive northern portion of the Wilson Creek Range, the Table Mountain WSA encompasses a variety of subtle yet diverse landforms. The northern end of the WSA consists of the pinyon and juniper covered foothills and drainages on the north flank of Rosencrans Mountain one of a series of rocky peaks and knobs which spur off of the uplands of Table Mountain. The "Table", located in the central portion of the WSA is a high wind swept plateau covered with a mosaic of native grasses, mountain mahogany and manzanita. A central ridgeline in the WSA is separated from the "Table" by rocky, precipitous canyons. Within these canyons, spectacular scenic pockets of ponderosa pines nestle up against colorful volcanic cliff faces. From the central ridgeline, a jumbled array of conical peaks, most over 8,000 feet in elevation, spread out and form the forested southern half of the WSA. Bald eagles are often sighted during the winter in this well watered, rugged terrain. During the summer months, elk can be found dispersed throughout the WSA.

Although scenic, the Table Mountain WSA was not recommended as wilderness for several reasons. The foremost reason was the concern over managing the area as wilderness. There are eight parcels of private land within the boundaries of the WSA. Few of these parcels have any developed access to them. Because the private inholdings are tied to the water rights of springs and streams, private land owners may require adequate access to these parcels in the future. The development of access to the private parcels would impair the naturalness values of the WSA in their immediate vicinity. Acquisition of these private parcels would be a difficult and lengthy process because of the issues of water rights.

Additionally, approximately 13 miles of the WSA boundary is based on 10 private parcels. Most of these parcels are not marked or fenced. Identification of the WSA boundary on the ground would be very difficult. The presence of these private parcels has resulted in an irregular configuration for the WSA with the center portion constricted and less than one-mile wide.

Another manageability concern was that projected mineral exploration and development in the northern portion of the WSA would impair wilderness values regardless of wilderness designation. Gold-producing ore is intermittently processed at the Atlanta Mine, located three miles north of the WSA.

While the Table Mountain WSA does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, the wilderness inventory found that it lacked the same high level of recreation opportunities and offered few special features. The recommendation for the WSA was partially based on these lower wilderness values.

Lastly, the Table Mountain WSA is one of four WSA's clustered within a radius of 25 miles. All of these WSA's are comprised of similar landforms and ecosystems. Two of these WSA's - Parsnip Peak (NV-040-206), also within the Wilson Creek Range and the White Rock Range (NV-040-202) - are recommended for wilderness designation.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** Nearly the entire Table Mountain WSA is in a natural condition. The central and southern portions are in an especially pristine condition. The central ridgeline in the WSA is separated from the 'Table' by rocky, precipitous canyons. Within these canyons, spectacular scenic pockets of ponderosa pines nestle up against colorful volcanic cliff faces. From the central ridgeline, a jumbled array of conical peaks, most over 8,000 feet in elevation, spread out and form the forested southern half of the WSA.

A few cherrystemmed roads and ways intrude into the area and affect the naturalness of the periphery, but are noticeable only when in their immediate proximity.

B. **Solitude:** The 'Table' portion of the WSA receives the most visitor use, while the remainder of the WSA is virtually unknown and infrequently visited. Topography characterized by numerous peaks, jutting outcrops, steep drainages and vegetative screening of thick forest cover allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are no destination points in the WSA and the abundance of springs throughout the area would further serve to disperse visitors and minimize user contacts.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** Opportunities for recreation exist in the Table Mountain WSA, but fall short of "outstanding." These include most of the usual forms of recreation such as hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, and hunting (deer and upland game). Opportunities for some of these are limited in much of the area by the thick vegetative cover, which at times can become impenetrable maze of mountain brush. Once these barriers are overcome, hidden riparian areas only lightly grazed by elk are revealed and offer excellent destination points for visitors. Interesting rock formations, meadows, and ponderosa pine all enhance recreational opportunities. Wildlife is particularly abundant in portions of the WSA and includes mule deer, elk, and wintering bald eagles.

D. **Special Features:** The scenic quality of a small area within the central portion of the WSA is considered to be a special feature. This area offers the visitor a relatively pristine meadow complex, a healthy regeneration of ponderosa pine forest, and the beautifully sculptured hoodoo rock formations all found in close proximity to each other. Bald eagles which can be found roosting within the WSA in the winter time are also considered a special feature in the area.

4. MANAGEABILITY (the area must be capable of being managed to preserve its wilderness character)

The Table Mountain WSA is unmanageable as wilderness. If it were designated wilderness, it is likely that the wilderness values of the area would be lost over the long term to incompatible but allowable uses. The first use of the land which would be incompatible with wilderness management is access development to the dispersed private inholdings in the south half of the WSA. The Wilderness Management Policy allows for reasonable development of access; and in the rugged terrain in which the private parcels are located, Another manageability concern was that projected mineral exploration and development in the northern portion of the WSA would impair wilderness values regardless of wilderness designation. Gold-producing ore is intermittently processed at the Atlanta Mine, located three miles north of the WSA.

While the Table Mountain WSA does offer outstanding opportunities for solitude, the wilderness inventory found that it lacked the same high level of recreation opportunities and offered few special features. The recommendation for the WSA was partially based on these lower wilderness values.

Lastly, the Table Mountain WSA is one of four WSA's clustered within a radius of 25 miles. All of these WSA's are comprised of similar landforms and ecosystems. Two of these WSA's - Parsnip Peak (NV-040-206), also within the Wilson Creek Range and the White Rock Range (NV-040-202) - are recommended for wilderness designation.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: Nearly the entire Table Mountain WSA is in a natural condition. The central and southern portions are in an especially pristine condition. The central dogleg in the WSA is separated from the 'Table' by rocky, precipitous canyons. Within these canyons, spectacular scenic pockets of ponderosa pines nestle up against colorful volcanic tuffs. From the central ridgeline, a jumbled array of conical peaks, most over 9,000 feet in elevation, spread out and form the forested southern half of the WSA.

A few cherrystemmed roads and ways intrude into the area and affect the naturalness of the periphery, but are noticeable only when in their immediate proximity.

B. Solitude: The 'Table' portion of the WSA receives the most visitor use, while the remainder of the WSA is virtually unknown and infrequently visited. Topography characterized by numerous peaks, jutting outcrops, steep drainages and vegetation, consisting of thick forest cover allow for outstanding opportunities for solitude. There are no destination points in the WSA and the abundance of springs throughout the area would further serve to disperse visitors and minimize user contacts.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Opportunities for recreation exist in the Table Mountain WSA, but fall short of "outstanding." These include most of the usual forms of recreation such as hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, and hunting (deer and upland game). Opportunities for some of them are limited in much of the area by the thick vegetative cover, which at times can become impenetrable mazes of mountain brush. Once these barriers are overcome, hidden meadows only lightly grazed by elk are revealed and offer excellent destination points for visitors. Interesting rock formations, meadows, and ponderosa pine all enhance recreational opportunities. Wildlife is particularly abundant in portions of the WSA and includes mule deer, elk, and wintering bald eagles.

D. Special Features: The scenic quality of a small area within the central portion of the WSA is considered to be a special feature. This area offers the visitor a relatively pristine meadow complex, a healthy regeneration of ponderosa pine forest, and the beautifully sculptured hoodoo rock formations all found in close proximity to each other. Bald eagles which can be found roosting within the WSA in the winter time are also considered a special feature in the area.

4. MANAGEABILITY (the area must be capable of being managed to preserve its wilderness character)

The Table Mountain WSA is unmanageable as wilderness. If it were designated wilderness, it is likely that the wilderness values of the area would be lost over the long term to incompatible but allowable uses. The first use of the land which would be incompatible with wilderness management is access development to the dispersed private inholdings in the south half of the WSA. The Wilderness Management Policy allows for reasonable development of access, and in the rugged terrain in which the private parcels are located, access development would likely be very impairing to naturalness and to opportunities for solitude.

This area is expected to contain mineralization similar to that in the vicinity of the Atlanta Mine, 3 miles north of the WSA, where a disseminated gold deposit has been extensively mined resulting in massive areas of surface disturbance.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The 1983 GEM study evaluates the mineral and energy potential of the Table Mountain WSA. The study indicates that the entire WSA has moderate potential for the occurrence of metallic minerals. Potential for energy (oil, gas, geothermal) resources is low for the entire WSA (GEM,1983).

Precious-metal mineralization occurs within the Atlanta/Silver Peak Mining District located just north of the WSA. The Atlanta mine has produced gold and silver in the past and is currently in operation on a sporadic basis. Precious-metal mineralization is also observed in the volcanics to the south of the Atlanta/Silver Peak District in the west-central portion of the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the inventory phase, one comment was received which raised the issue of livestock grazing conflicts. No other comments were received which raised issues needing to be analyzed during the study phase.

There were a total of 35 comments received during the study process which mentioned the Table Mountain WSA. Of those, 21 supported the unit for wilderness designation citing the excellent hiking in the forests and undulating uplands, the solitude, archaeological sites and rare flora. The Nevada Division of Parks supports this unit as wilderness. Sixteen comments opposed wilderness designation stating they were generally opposed to wilderness, the unit had mineral potential for gold and silver, roads, intrusions and deeded property. The Nevada Departments of Wildlife and Agriculture opposed wilderness designation.

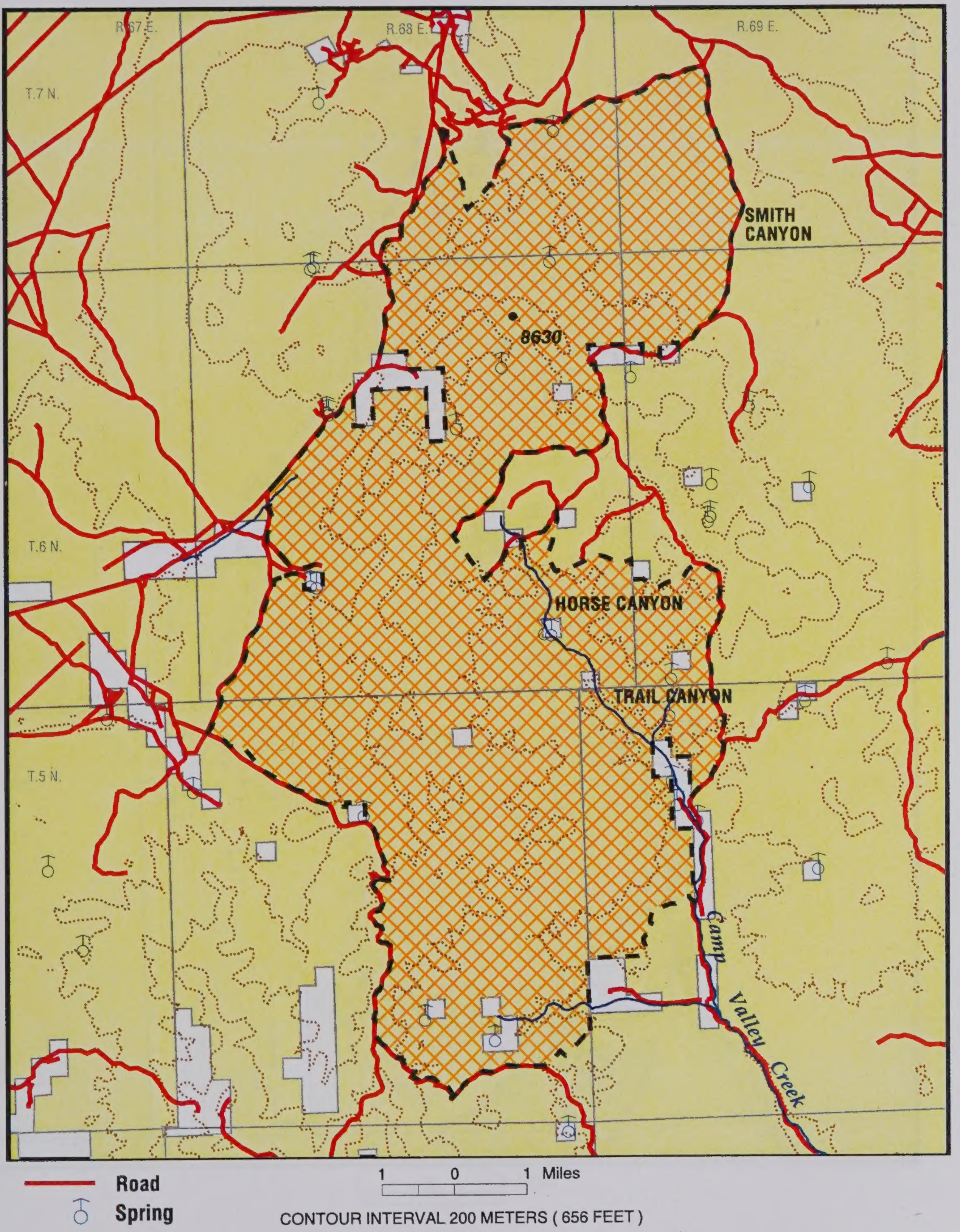
During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between April 8 to July 8, 1983 a total of six comments were received specifically addressing the White Rock Range WSA. Of those, five were written comments and one was an oral testimony. In general, no comments specifically supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA; four commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA and one commentor took no position on designation.

The Bureaus of Indian Affairs, Mines, and Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and the Department of the Air Force all commented on the draft EIS. None of these agencies had a jurisdictional conflict with either of the alternatives. The Governor of Nevada as well as the State Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, and Historic Preservation and Archeology supported a no wilderness recommendation for the Table Mountain WSA, stating the unit "...has many resource conflicts." The Lincoln County Conservation District also opposed wilderness designation.

One letter was received on the final EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness recommendation.

Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
T.5 N.
SMITH CANYON
8630
HORSE CANYON
TRAIL CANYON
Camp Valley Creek
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

NV-040-197

10/25/2000

Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES

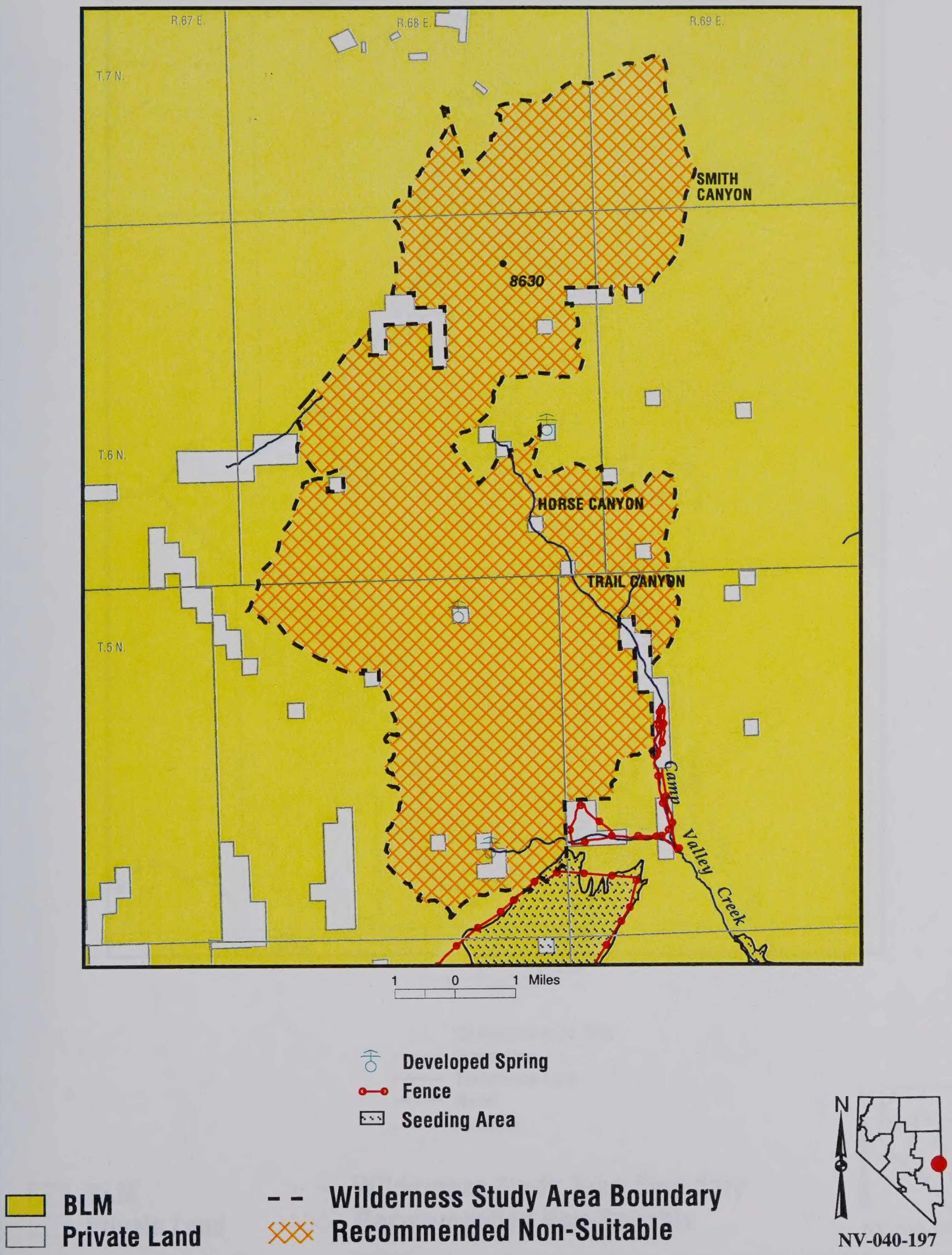
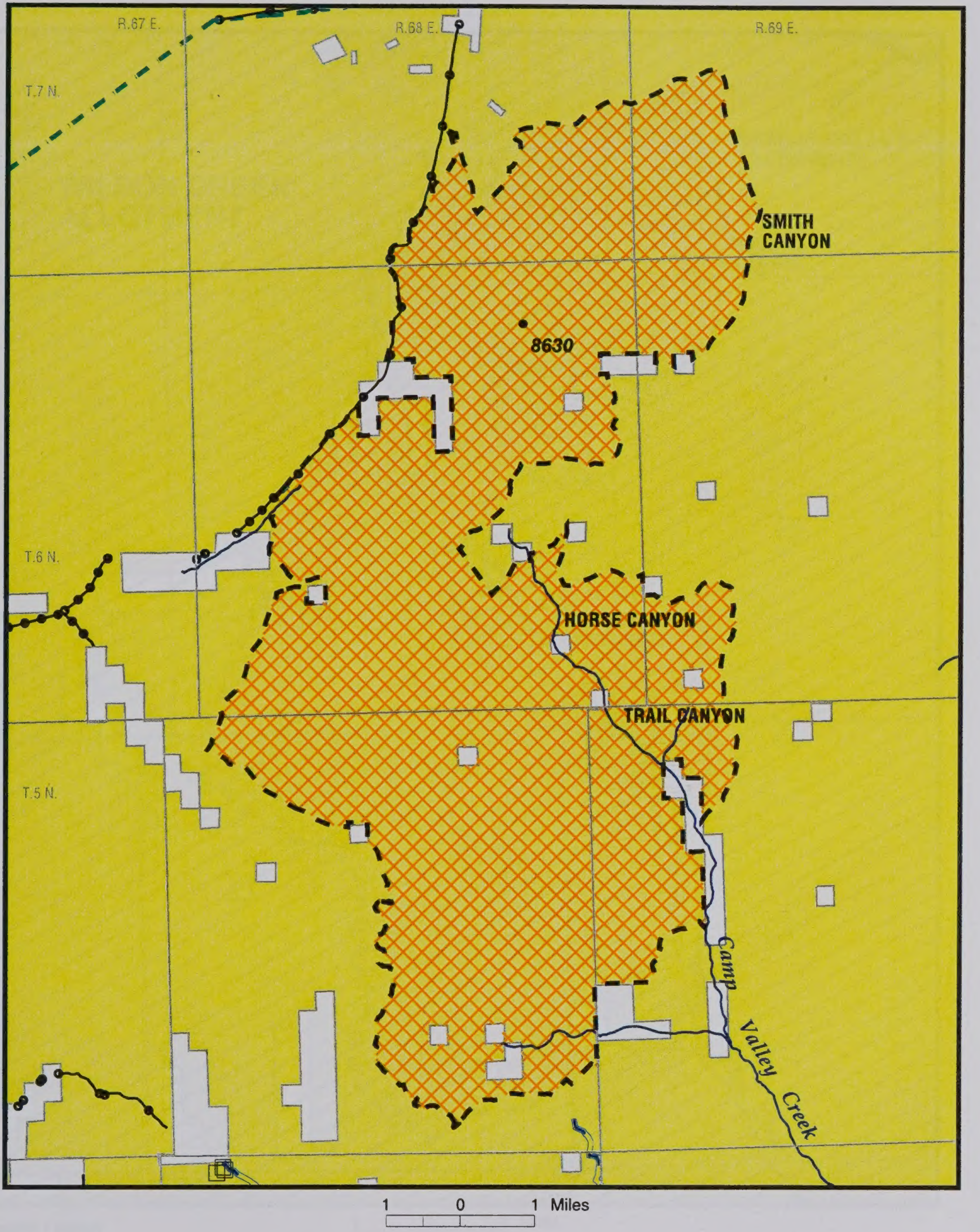

R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
T.5 N.
SMITH CANYON
8630
HORSE CANYON
TRAIL CANYON
Camp Valley Creek
1 0 1 Miles
Developed Spring
Fence
Seeding Area
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-197

Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
T.5 N.
SMITH CANYON
8630
HORSE CANYON
TRAIL CANYON
Camp Valley Creek
1 0 1 Miles

☐ Communication Site
o——o Powerline
o-●-●-o Telephone Line
— Road
- - - Pipeline

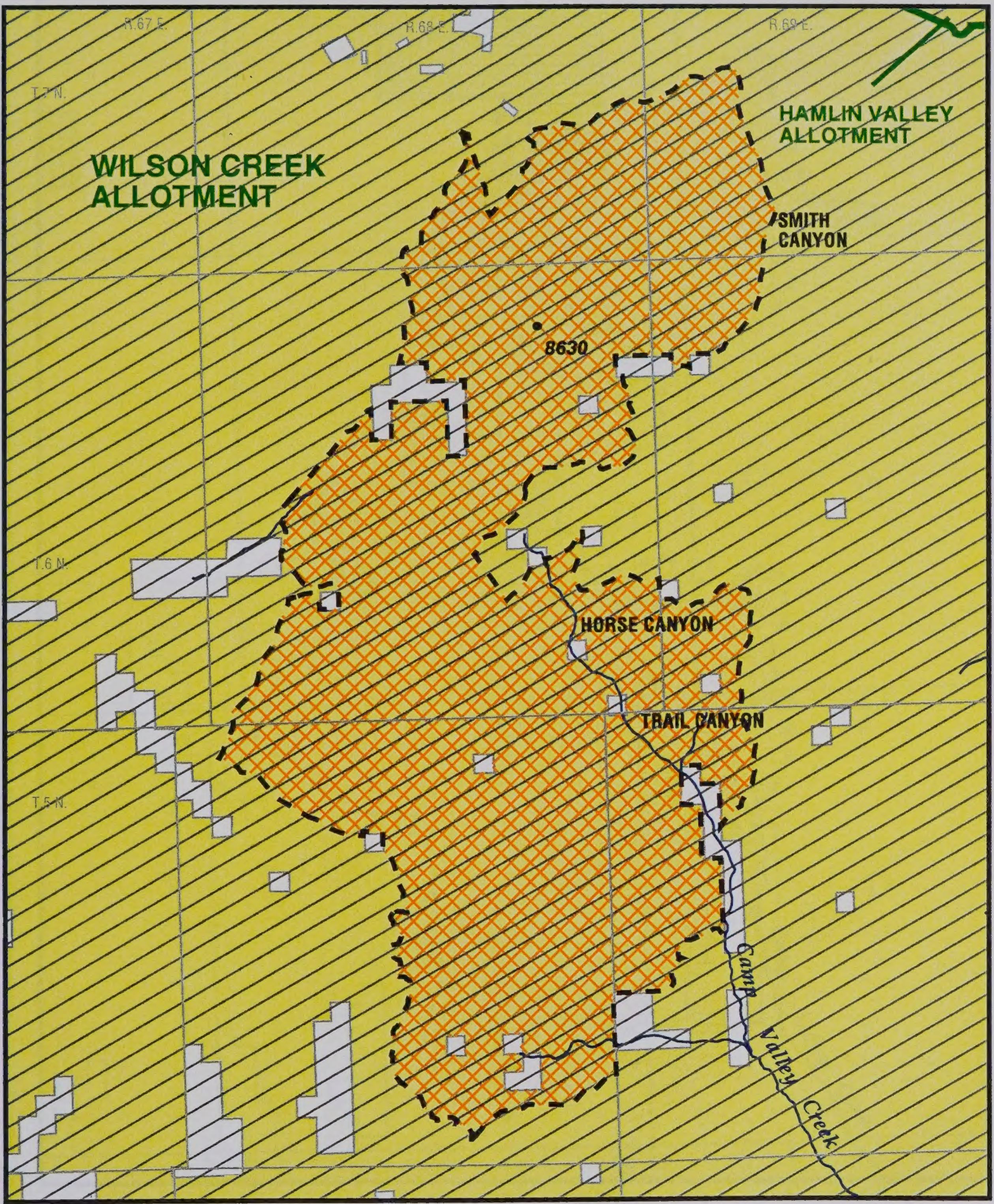
🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-040-197

10/25/2000

Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
T.5 N.
WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT
HAMLIN VALLEY ALLOTMENT
SMITH CANYON
8630
HORSE CANYON
TRAIL CANYON
Camp Valley Creek

1 0 1 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP

▨ Wilson Creek HMA

Allotment Boundary

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

NV-040-197

Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS

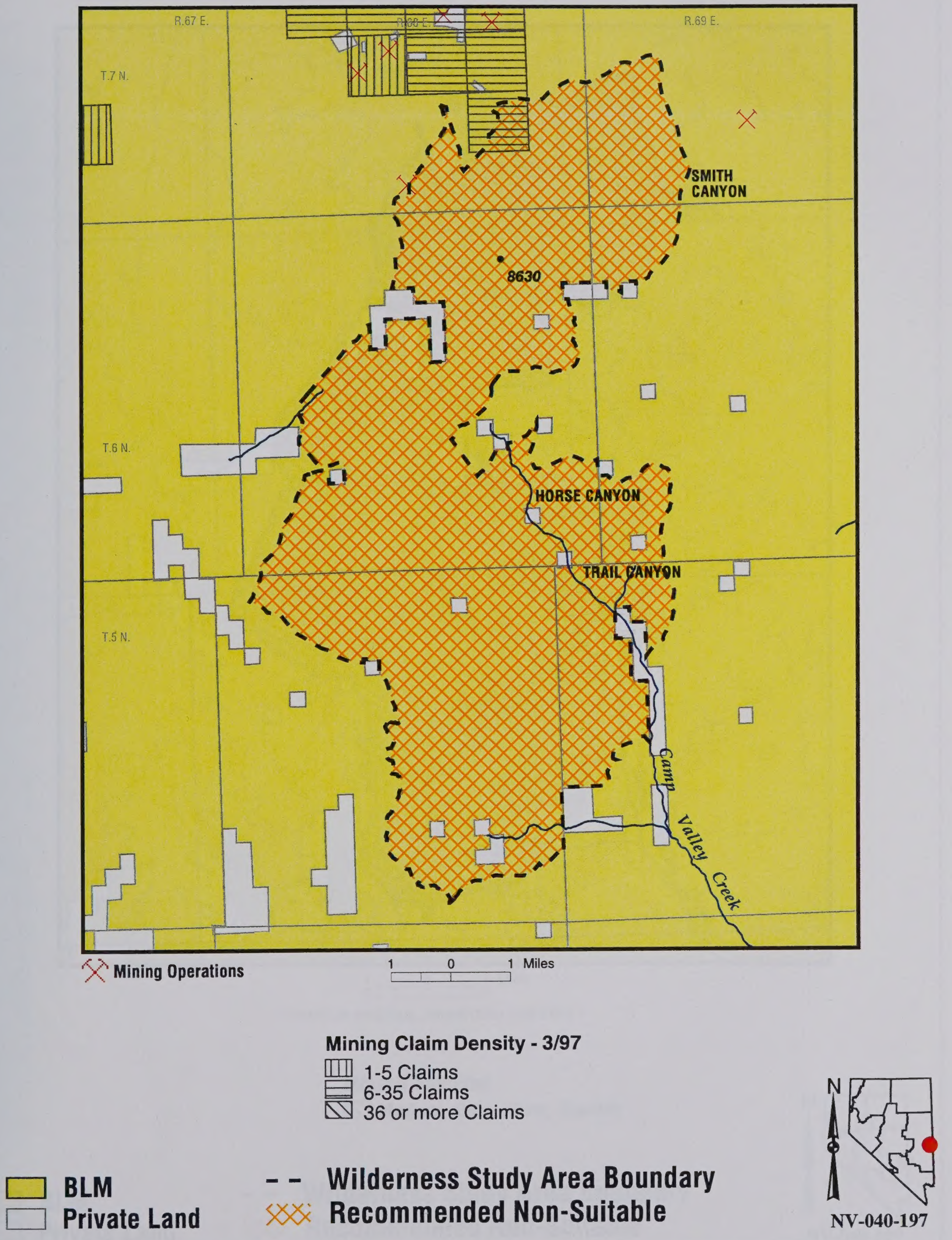
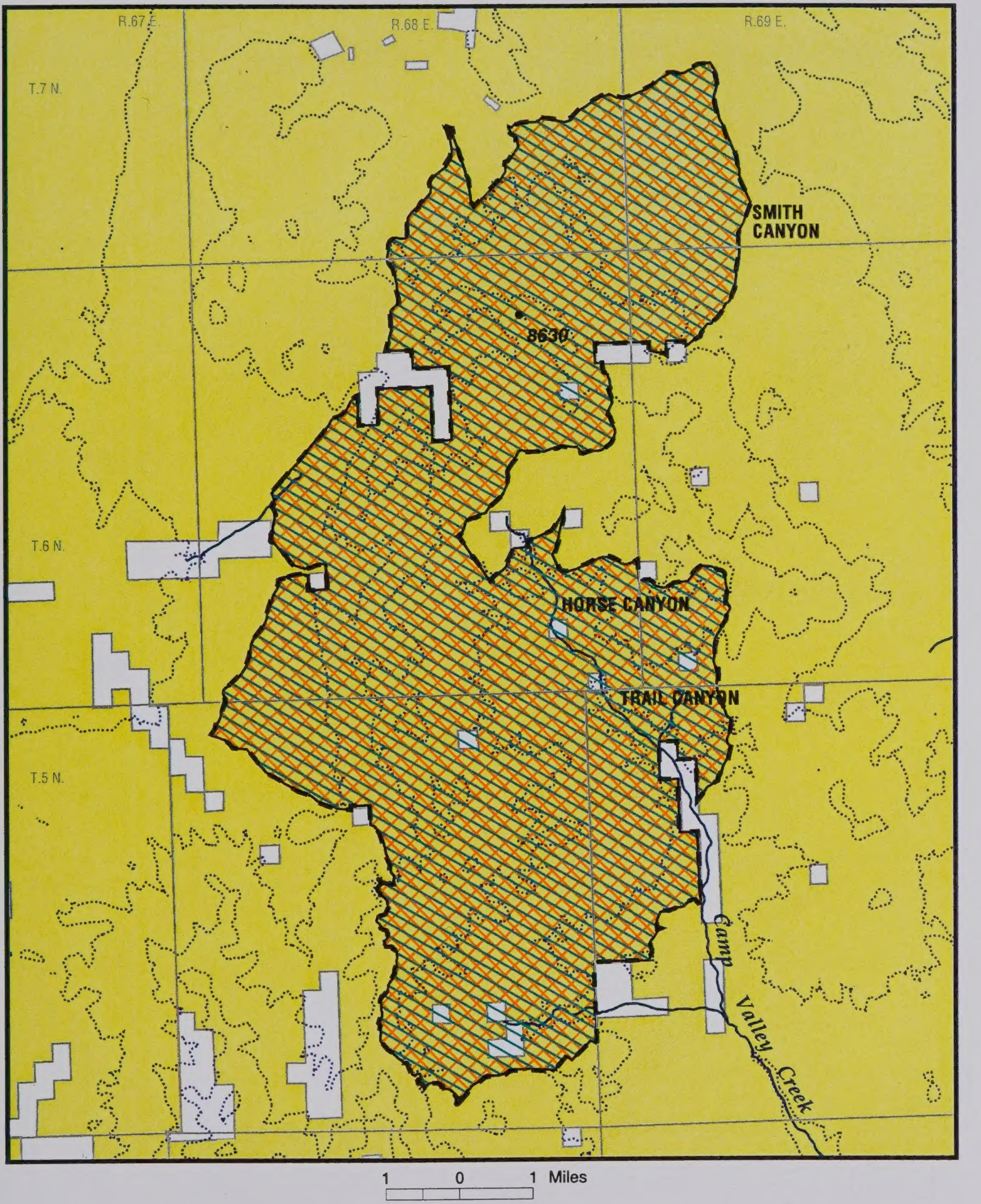

R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
T.5 N.
SMITH CANYON
8630
HORSE CANYON
TRAIL CANYON
Camp Valley Creek
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-040-197

Table Mountain Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
T.7 N.
T.6 N.
T.5 N.
SMITH CANYON
8630
HORSE CANYON
TRAIL CANYON
Camp Valley Creek
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **Medium - Gold, Silver, Uranium**

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

✕✕✕ Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-040-197

WHITE ROCK RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 24,065 acres

The White Rock Range WSA (NV-040-202) is mostly located in Lincoln County in the east-central portion of Nevada along the Nevada-Utah border. A portion of the WSA lies within the State of Utah on the western boundaries of Beaver and Iron Counties. The nearest communities are Ursine, Nevada (pop. 100) about 15 miles to the southwest; and Pioche, Nevada (pop. 800) about 25 miles to the southwest. The entire WSA is comprised of public land with no private inholdings. The boundaries of the White Rock Range WSA are formed on the southwest by a fenceline, on the west by the White Rock Wash jeep trail, on the north by two jeep trails, a legal boundary and a parcel of Utah State land. The southern and eastern boundaries are defined by the Reeds Cabin Summit Road.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 24,065 acres recommended for wilderness
0 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The White Rock Range was recommended for wilderness because of its high degree of naturalness and solitude, the ease of management, and the lack of conflicts.

The WSA is made up of gentle mountain terrain with associated foothills and benchlands. The broad, north-south trending range is dissected by numerous side canyons and drainages. Elevations range from over 9,000 feet to about 6,100 feet. Most of the WSA is forested with juniper, pinyon, and fir woodland. The north end, however, exhibits some interesting differences, including high open sagebrush country, ponderosa pines, white fir, aspen and two high (but intermittent) mountain lakes. Interspersed throughout the area are numerous small grassy meadows where springs support riparian vegetation.

The pristine nature of the WSA is apparent throughout. On the northern end, the ridge flattens into a high, broad windswept table interrupted only by pockets of aspen and fir. Large aspen trees, twisted and contorted by wind and weather provide for interesting photo opportunities. Volcanic boulders, colorful with splotches of lichens are strewn across the table. Signs of elk and deer are abundant.

Although hidden in many places by vegetation, the volcanic nature of the range is often apparent. Islands of strangely eroded volcanic ash and columnar peaks thrust out of and tower over the sea of green trees.

Solitude is the primary wilderness value. Heavy tree cover, combined with jumbled mountain topography, results in outstanding opportunities for solitude.

The area is notable for its large number of springs which enhance opportunities for backpacking, camping, and hiking. The relatively large amount of riparian acreage supported by these provides habitat for a large variety of animal species and this diversity of flora and fauna provides good opportunities for nature study.

The WSA's blocky configuration is ideal for management and requires no boundary modification.

Also leading to the wilderness recommendation is the fact that conflicts with other resource uses of this WSA are low. The USGS/BM mineral survey showed the area to have low potential for metallic minerals, oil, gas, and geothermal resources. Although the White Rock Range has good potential for commercial woodland product harvest, ample areas exist outside of the WSA to meet foreseeable demand.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** The pristine nature of the remote White Rock Range WSA is apparent throughout. Visitors have infrequently explored this little known area and few signs of man can be found.

The only unnatural features are five ways, none of which are more than a mile in length, and all but one of which are well screened by dense forest cover.

B. **Solitude:** The opportunities for solitude in this WSA are outstanding. The WSA's vegetative screening is exceptional, provided by an almost uninterrupted forest of pinyon and juniper, with a scattering of other conifers. This, combined with good topographic screening provided by the mountains themselves, as well as a good unit configuration, allow for outstanding solitude opportunities just about anywhere within the area.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** Opportunities for recreation were found to be good but less than outstanding during the wilderness inventory. Current recreational opportunities such as hiking, camping, trapping, deer hunting, blue grouse hunting, and rockhounding are found throughout the WSA. About 18,000 acres of the area are crucial deer summer range.

In addition, the White Rock Range is notable for its large number of springs which enhance opportunities for backpacking, camping, and hiking. The relatively large amount of riparian acreage supported by these springs provides habitat for numerous animal species. This diversity of flora and fauna provides good opportunities for nature study.

D. **Special Features:** The original wilderness inventory did not list any special features. After completion of the inventory however, an elk herd of about 20-30 animals set up residence. The elk use the northern portion of the WSA and seeing these animals enhances the visitor's wilderness experience. They are now considered a special feature of the WSA.

4. MANAGEABILITY (the area must be capable of being managed to preserve its wilderness character)

The White Rock Range WSA is easily manageable as wilderness. The boundaries of the unit are easily found on the ground. There are no private inholdings in the area and no mineral leases. Cherrystemmed routes are few, and well screened by tree cover.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment report for the White Rock Range WSA in 1986, (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1728-B).

The report indicates that the White Rock Range WSA has no identified mineral resources and has low mineral resource potential for metals. The report also states that the potential for oil, gas, coal, and geothermal energy resources within the unit is low.

The 1983 GEM study differs from the recent evaluation of the USGS/BM report. The GEM study rated the WSA as having moderate potential for mineral resources, with a low certainty factor.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between April 8 to July 8, 1983 a total of 10 comments were received specifically addressing the White Rock Range WSA. Of

those, six were written comments and four were oral testimonies. In general, six commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA and three commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA and one commentor took no position on designation.

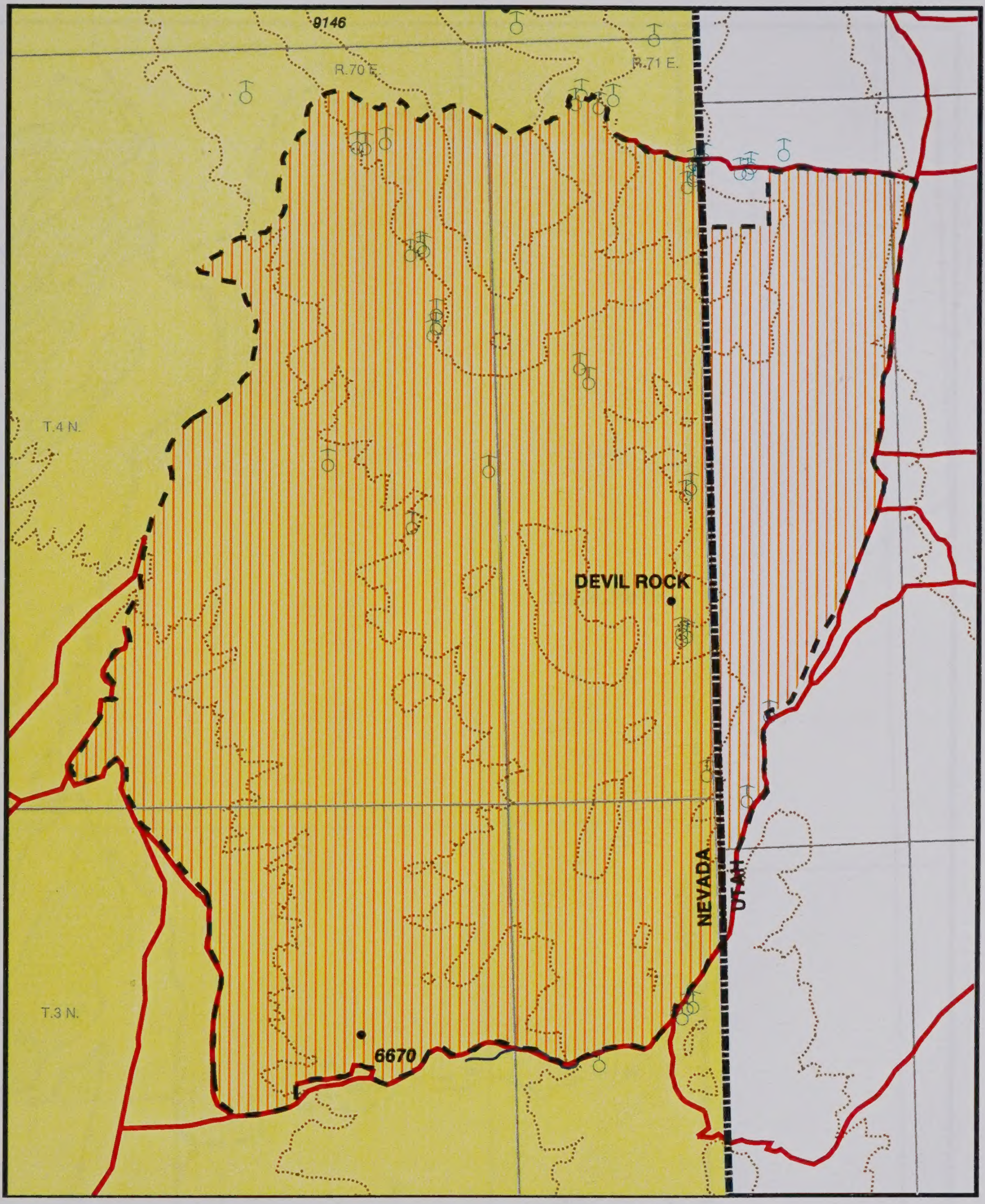
Specific comments opposing wilderness designation stated there were private lands and water holdings within the unit, current recreational access routes, and that options for wildlife habitat improvement should remain open.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and the Department of the Air Force all commented on the draft EIS. None of these agencies had a jurisdictional conflict with either of the alternatives. The Governor of Nevada as well as the State Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, and Historic Preservation and Archeology supported a no wilderness recommendation for the White Rock Range WSA, stating the unit "lacks really positive and unique wilderness values." The Nevada Department of Wildlife opposes wilderness designation because of current recreational access routes and to keep management options open for range improvements. The Lincoln County Conservation District opposes wilderness designation stating it "has several old roads and has high potential for vegetation improvements" for wildlife and livestock.

One letter was received on the final EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness recommendation.

10/23/2000

White Rock Range Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


9146
R.70 E.
R.71 E.
T.4 N.
DEVIL ROCK
NEVADA
UTAH
T.3 N.
6670

Road

Spring

1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

BLM

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

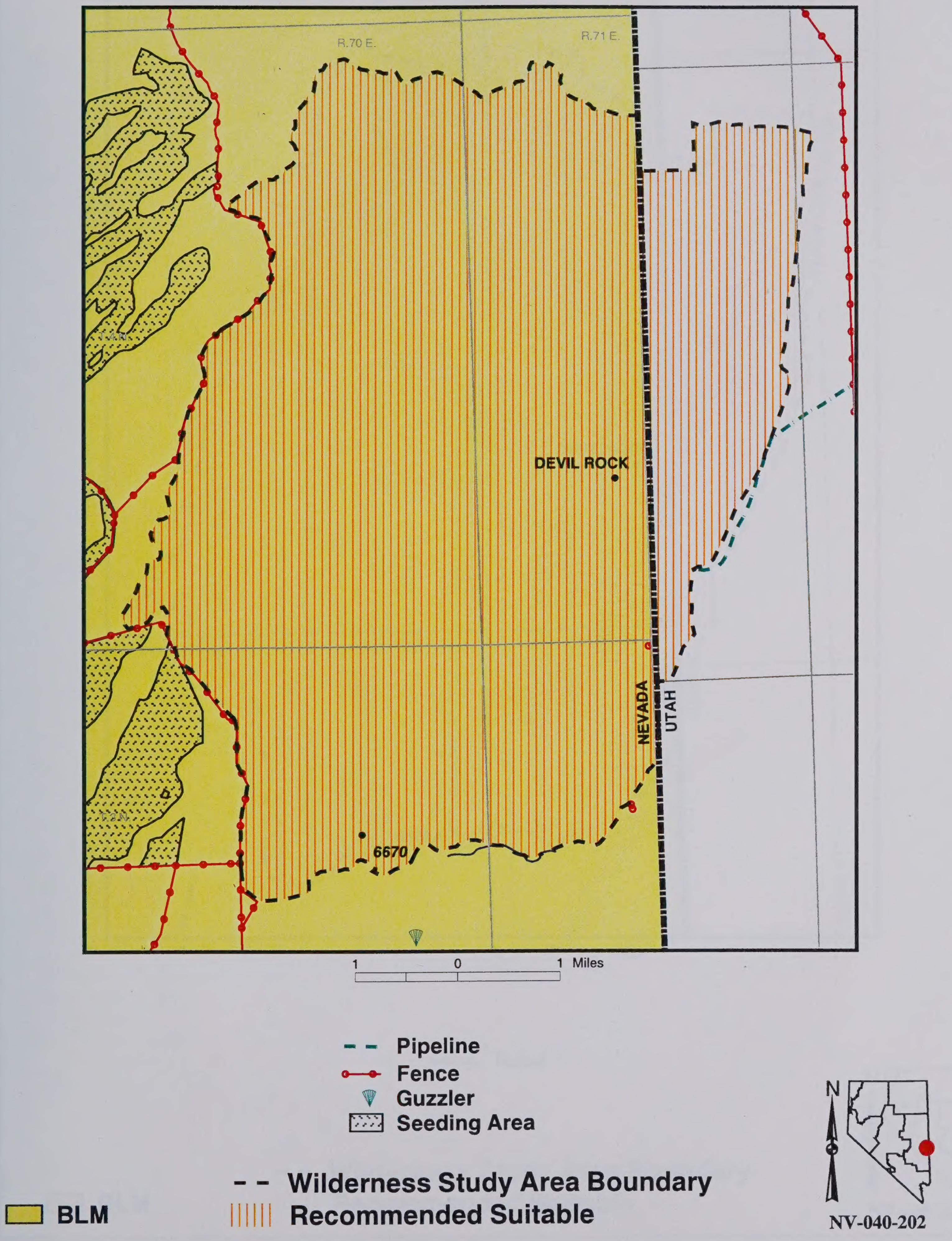
||||| Recommended Suitable

NV-040-202

10/23/2000

White Rock Range Wilderness Study Area

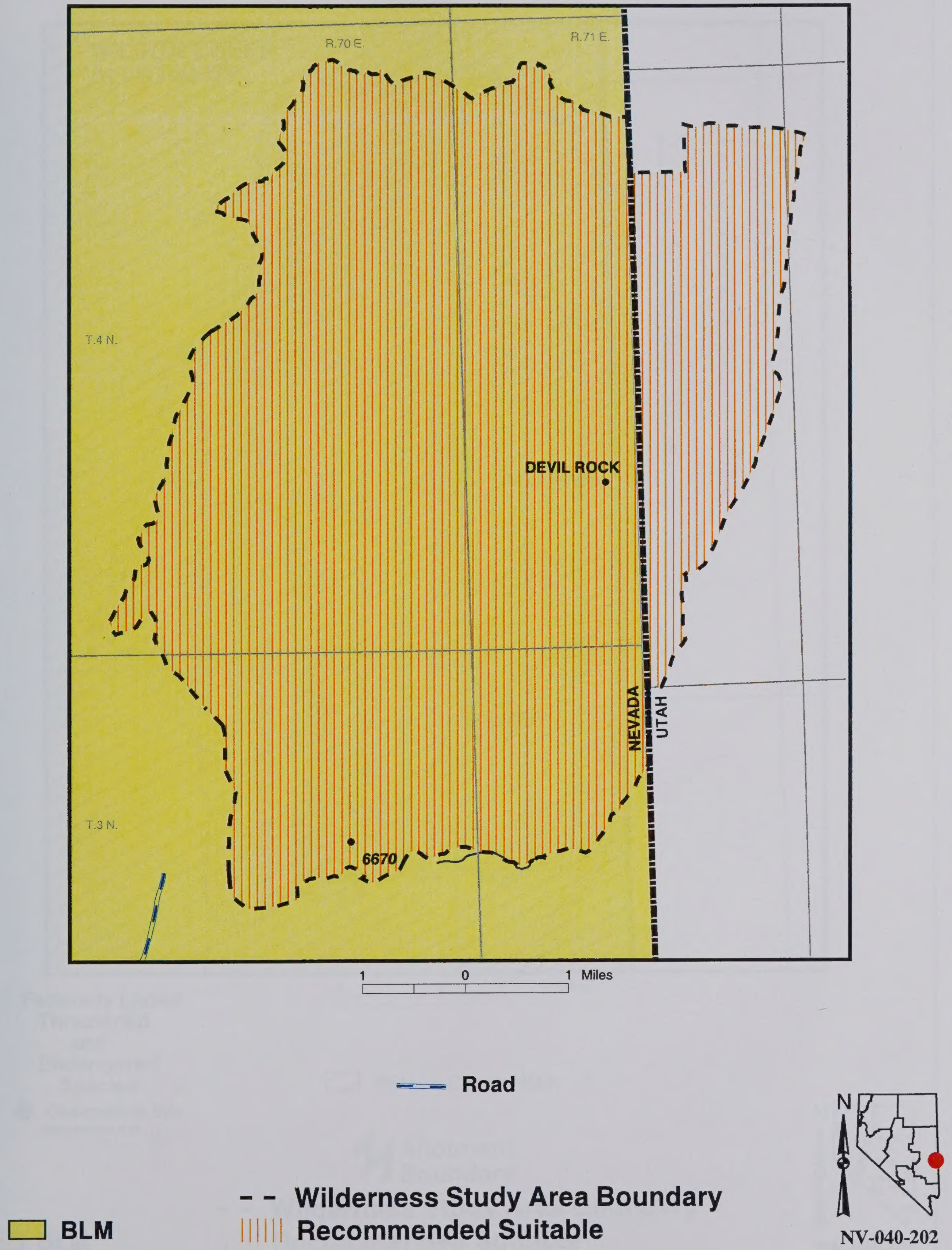
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.70 E.
R.71 E.
T.4N.
T.3N.
DEVIL ROCK
6670
NEVADA
UTAH
1 0 1 Miles
Pipeline
Fence
Guzzler
Seeding Area
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
BLM
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-202

10/23/2000

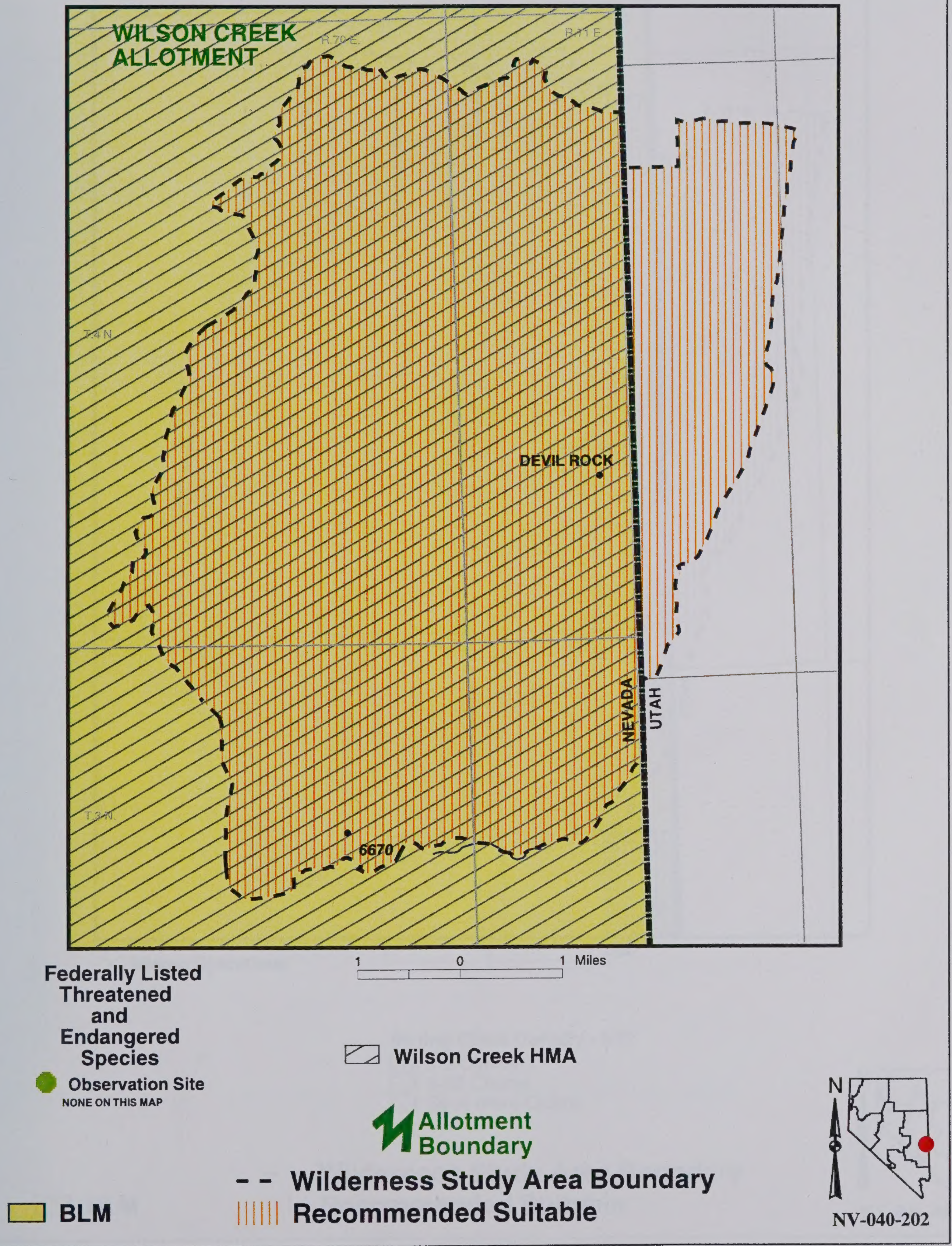
White Rock Range Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.70 E.
R.71 E.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
DEVIL ROCK
6670
NEVADA
UTAH
1
0
1 Miles
Road
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Suitable
BLM
N
NV-040-202

10/23/2000

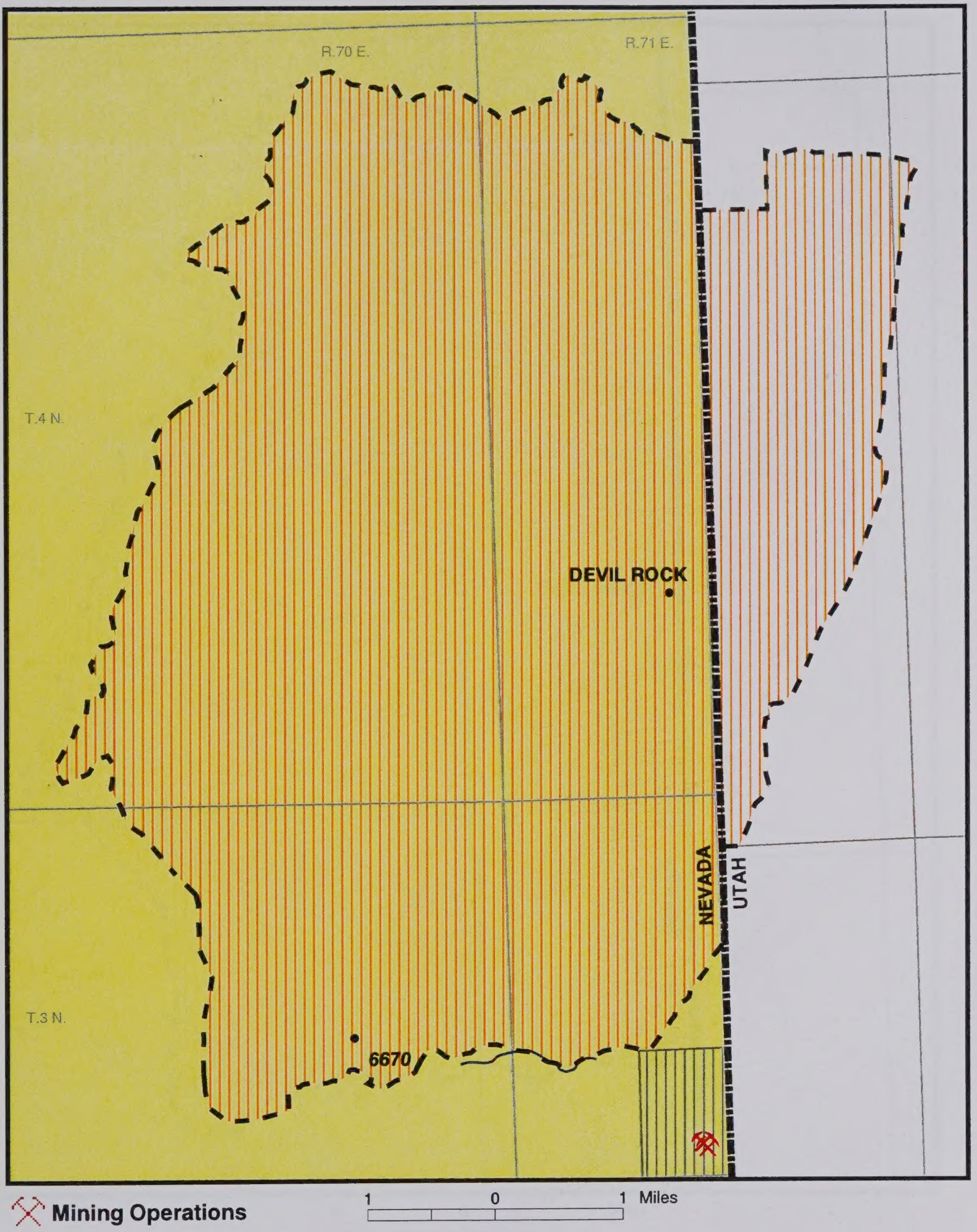
White Rock Range Wilderness Study Area
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT
R.70 E.
R.71 E.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
DEVIL ROCK
6670
NEVADA
UTAH
1 0 1 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Wilson Creek HMA
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
BLM
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-202

10/23/2000

White Rock Range Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.70 E.
R.71 E.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
DEVIL ROCK
6670
NEVADA
UTAH
Mining Operations
1
0
1
Miles

Mining Claim Density - 3/97

▥ 1-5 Claims
▤ 6-35 Claims
▧ 36 or more Claims

– – Wilderness Study Area Boundary

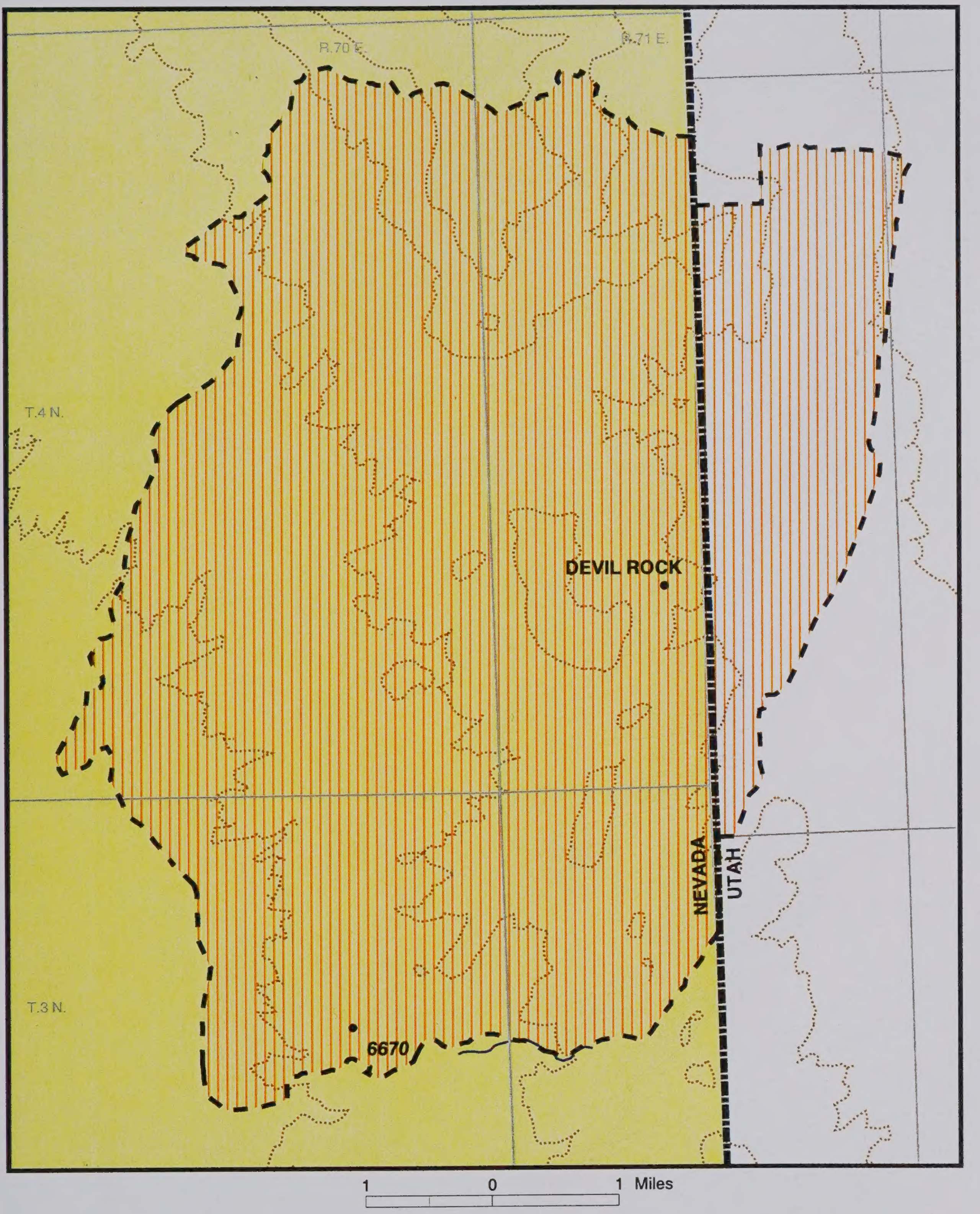
🟨 BLM

||||| Recommended Suitable

NV-040-202

10/23/2000

White Rock Range Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.70 E.
R.71 E.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
DEVIL ROCK
6670
NEVADA
UTAH
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

||||| Recommended Suitable

NV-040-202

PARSNIP PEAK WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 88,175 ACRES

The Parsnip Peak WSA (NV-040-206) is located in Lincoln County in east-central Nevada within the Wilson Creek Mountain Range. The nearest incorporated town is Pioche, Nevada, located 25 miles to the south.

The north boundary of the WSA is formed by Camp Valley Road, Wilson Creek-Camp Valley Road (BLM Road 4045) and an unnamed jeep trail that connects to the Mount Wilson Vortac Station Road. Along the Wilson Creek-Camp Valley Road, the boundary circumvents private land. A one and one-half mile portion of this boundary connects the two parcels on a north-south point to point bearing between unsurveyed parcel corners.

The western boundary is defined by an assortment of connections between jeep trails, county roads and point to point bearings. Beginning at the north end on the ridge of Mount Wilson, the boundary descends the Vortac Station Road and a jeep trail which connects to the Hulse Canyon Road. Here, the boundary circumvents private land in Hulse Canyon and continues to connect with a jeep trail. The boundary then ascends the mountain flank along a series of connecting jeep trails, then goes point to point to Blue Rock Springs to exclude a number of terminal ends of jeep trails. From Blue Rock Springs, the boundary goes point to point to an unnamed jeep trail which descends the mountain flank connecting with County Road 464, but not before cherrystemming a one-mile long jeep trail and old perlite mine workings. The boundary parallels the county road with a dirt road along the alluvial slope and ties back into County Road 464.

The southern boundary of the unit is defined by the Spring Valley Road which crosses the range at Pierson Summit. The eastern boundary of the WSA is defined by two fencelines and the Spring Valley and Camp Valley Roads. The east-central portion of the boundary deviates from the fencelines by following an unnamed jeep road to private land surrounding Parsnip Spring. The boundary then follows the Parsnip Creek Road back to the fenceline.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 53,560 acres recommended for wilderness
34,615 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The area recommended for wilderness possesses unquestionably high wilderness values. The area has a great diversity of vegetation and land form, and provides an outstanding diversity of recreation and solitude opportunities. Resource conflicts and manageability concerns in the portion recommended for wilderness designation are few. The area retains a pristine character, and contains important riparian areas, wildlife populations, and diverse forest types.

A northern portion of the WSA was recommended for nonwilderness to exclude areas accessible to vehicles, several parcels of private land, and an indefinite boundary between private parcels.

A portion on the west side of the WSA was not recommended for wilderness to reduce conflicts with known mineral deposits, allow for mechanical vegetation conversions to benefit wildlife and livestock, alleviate manageability problems around some private land in the Hulse Canyon area, and to provide a better defined, more manageable boundary.

The Patterson Wash area in the southwest portion of the WSA was also recommended for non-wilderness. Although its exclusion would reduce the ecological diversity of the proposed wilderness, it would reduce conflicts (range, wildlife, woodland products, minerals and energy) without significantly effecting opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. There is also strong local opposition in the local area to inclusion of this area.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** Most of the Parsnip Peak WSA recommended for wilderness is in a nearly pristine condition. The rugged nature of the portion recommended for wilderness prevents much use by livestock, and springs and riparian areas are relatively free of the developments and signs of livestock use.

Forest cover in the WSA varies with elevation and aspect with aspen groves predominating on the north slopes and extensive thickets of mountain mahogany on the south. Deer, elk and other wildlife heavily use these stands. Bald eagles enjoy the pockets of fir which are found in craggy niches in the higher elevations. Native grasses are found throughout the WSA.

Unnatural features within the area are few, but include several cherrystemmed roads, ways, range developments (springs and fences), and a partly developed 40 acre parcel of private land at Buster Spring. On the north end, the large Mount Wilson Burn was seeded with a mixture of grasses, some of which are not indigenous to the area. With the passage of time and the return of native shrub and grass species the area now appears very natural.

B. **Solitude:** Outstanding opportunities for solitude are available throughout the portion of the Parsnip Peak WSA recommended for wilderness due to its large size, generally dense vegetative cover, and excellent topographic screening. Many "secluded places" exist where a user can disassociate himself from all sights and sounds of man. Opportunities are truly outstanding.

Opportunities for solitude are somewhat less in the area recommended for uses other than wilderness to the north and west where more intensive livestock management occurs and past mining operations are located. To the south where the land is flat and the predominant vegetation is sagebrush, solitude opportunities are considerably diminished.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** Good opportunities for many types of recreation exist in the Parsnip Peak WSA, and this diversity is outstanding. Types of recreation include backpacking, hiking, camping, horseback riding, nature study, archaeological and geological sightseeing, rock climbing, hunting and trapping. The primitive backcountry setting of the WSA, along with the outstanding scenery of the area, enhance all of these opportunities.

As with the opportunities for solitude, the quality of recreational opportunities is lessened in the southern, nonwilderness portion of the WSA. The above mentioned recreational opportunities are concentrated more in the upper elevations, off the alluvial fans.

D. **Special Features:** Complementing the high scenic values, are abundant and varied prehistoric archaeological sites. The Mount Wilson Archaeological District has been delineated in the north end of the WSA and is eligible for nomination for National Register of Historic Places. Sites known to occur within the WSA include campsites, rock rings, rock shelters and rock art. One unique feature is the "Indian Playground", an elaborate maze-like rock alignment which can be clearly seen from the air.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The Parsnip Peak WSA would be manageable as wilderness with only a few difficulties. The WSA contains numerous scattered private parcels, some with cherrystemmed access, and some with no access at all. Within the recommended portion, access to Mud and Cole Springs (both in the north end) would create some adverse impacts, but would not affect the integrity of the area. Western portions recommended for nonwilderness would present management difficulties due to the locations of private lands and adjacent, but currently inactive mine lands.

The southwestern portion recommended for nonwilderness is a low, open valley area with no topographic barriers serving as a separation between it and the remainder of the valley. The openness of the portion

creates some concerns by virtue of the accessibility it lends to off-road vehicles. Off-road travel would likely continue even with wilderness designation due to the difficultly of effective patrols.

Some conflicts may occur, however, with the wilderness designation. Surface disturbance as a result of mineral exploration on valid claims may occur although development is not anticipated. In addition, several areas identified for vegetation conversion for both wildlife and livestock purposes are located within the portion recommended for wilderness. These conversions may still occur however they will be restricted to fires, with no mechanical conversions allowed.

In summary, conflicts in the area recommended for wilderness are minimal and wilderness and its compatible resource uses were determined to be the highest and best use of this portion. Additionally, designation would create a high quality addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES VALUES

The majority of the area recommended for wilderness has low potential for mineral resources. Discontinuous zones of moderate potential for perlite deposits are identified along the western and southwestern boundary of the recommended wilderness. On the western edge of the recommended wilderness, a small area is identified as having high potential for the occurrence of mineral resources including arsenic, antimony, mercury and gold.

Perlite deposits are common along the western portion of the WSA. Although considered suitable for plaster and concrete aggregate, most of the reserves and deposits identified within the USGS/BM assessment are considered subeconomic due to costs of exploration and lack of access to the deposits.

Energy resource potential for the Parsnip Peak WSA is low. Mineral potential speculations are low to moderate for the majority of the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

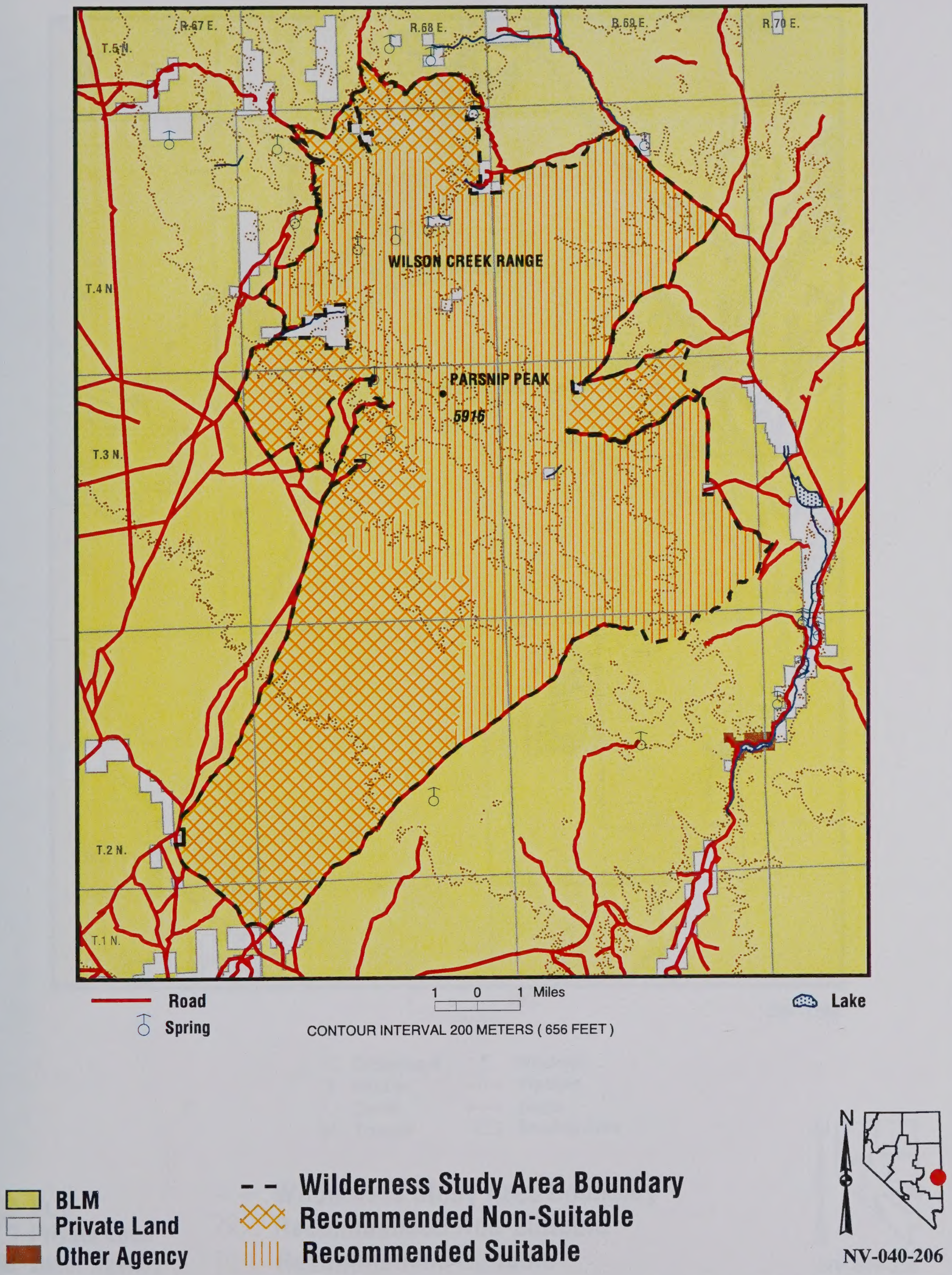
During formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report held between April 8 to July 8, 1983 a total of 10 comments were received specifically addressing the Parsnip Peak WSA. Of those, six were written comments and four were oral testimonies. Seven commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA and three commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA.

Comments supporting wilderness mention the scenic rock formations and the splendid ponderosa/oak/aspens stands. Also mentioned is the fact that the Wilson Burn area is natural looking. Comments opposing designation state the unit has potential for vegetation improvements, contains private lands and water holdings, and has mining claims and mineral deposits.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service, and the Department of the Air Force all commented on the draft EIS. None of these agencies had a jurisdictional conflict with any of the alternatives. The Governor of Nevada and the Nevada Department of Wildlife supported a no wilderness recommendation for the Parsnip Peak WSA, because of the existence of mineral deposits and the potential for vegetation conversions. The State Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, and Historic Preservation and Archeology support wilderness designation. The Lincoln County Conservation District opposes wilderness designation because it could prohibit vegetation conversion.

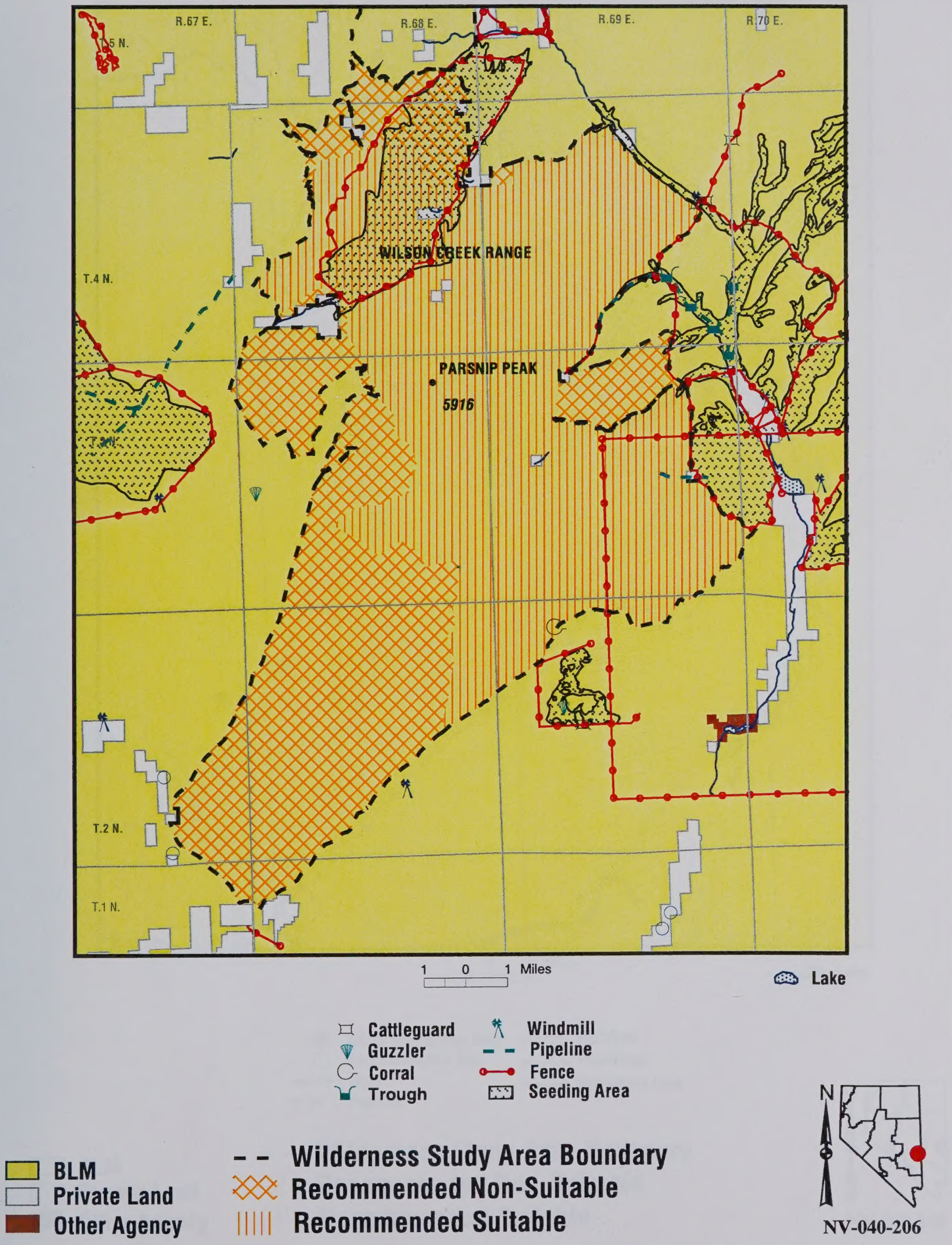
One letter was received on the final EIS from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness recommendation.

Parsnip Peak Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
R.70 E.
T.5 N.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
WILSON CREEK RANGE
PARSNIP PEAK
5916
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Lake
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-206

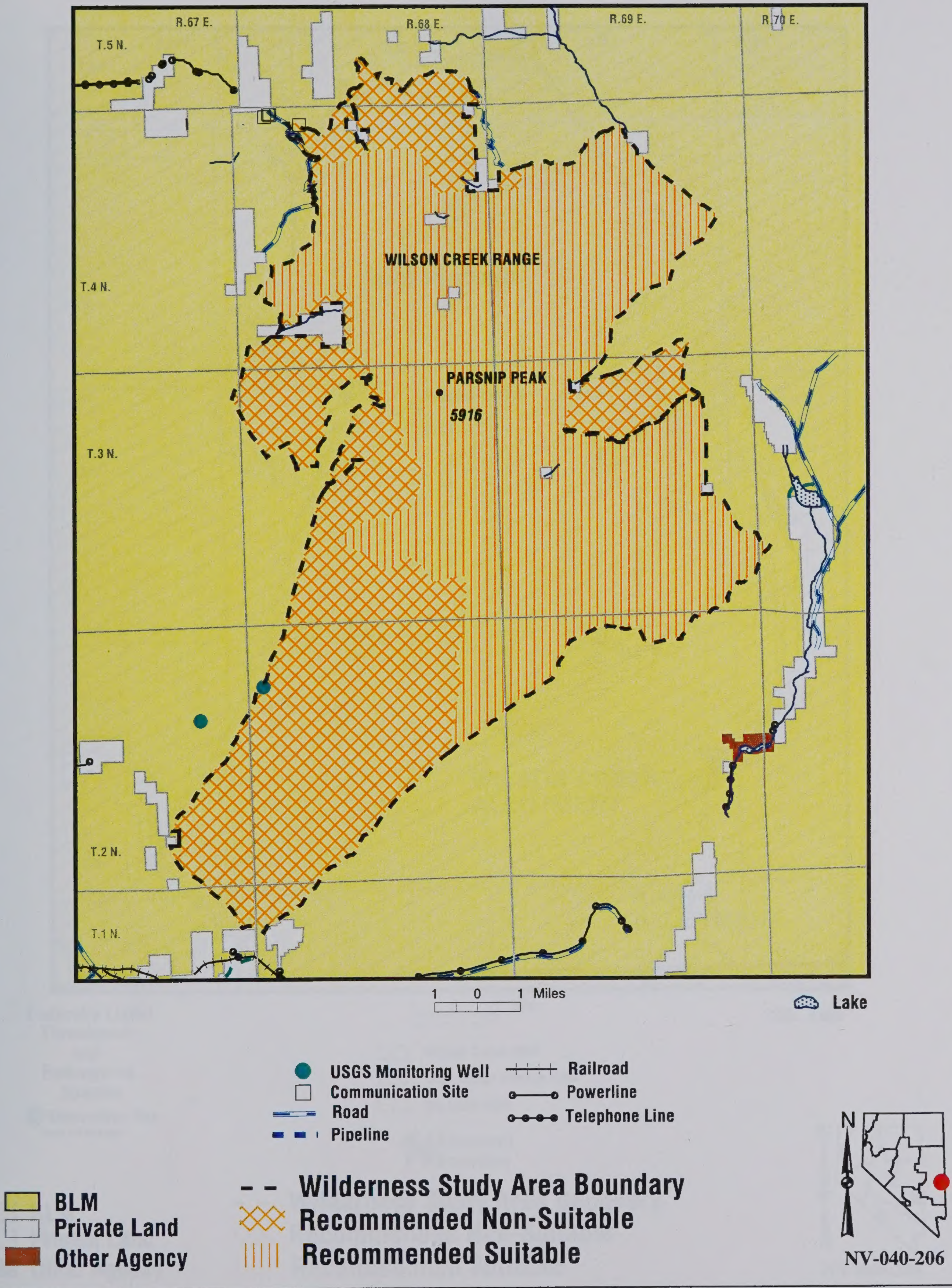
Parsnip Peak Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
R.70 E.
T.5 N.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
WILSON CREEK RANGE
PARSNIP PEAK
5916
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Cattleguard
Guzzler
Corral
Trough
Windmill
Pipeline
Fence
Seeding Area
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-206

Parsnip Peak Wilderness Study Area

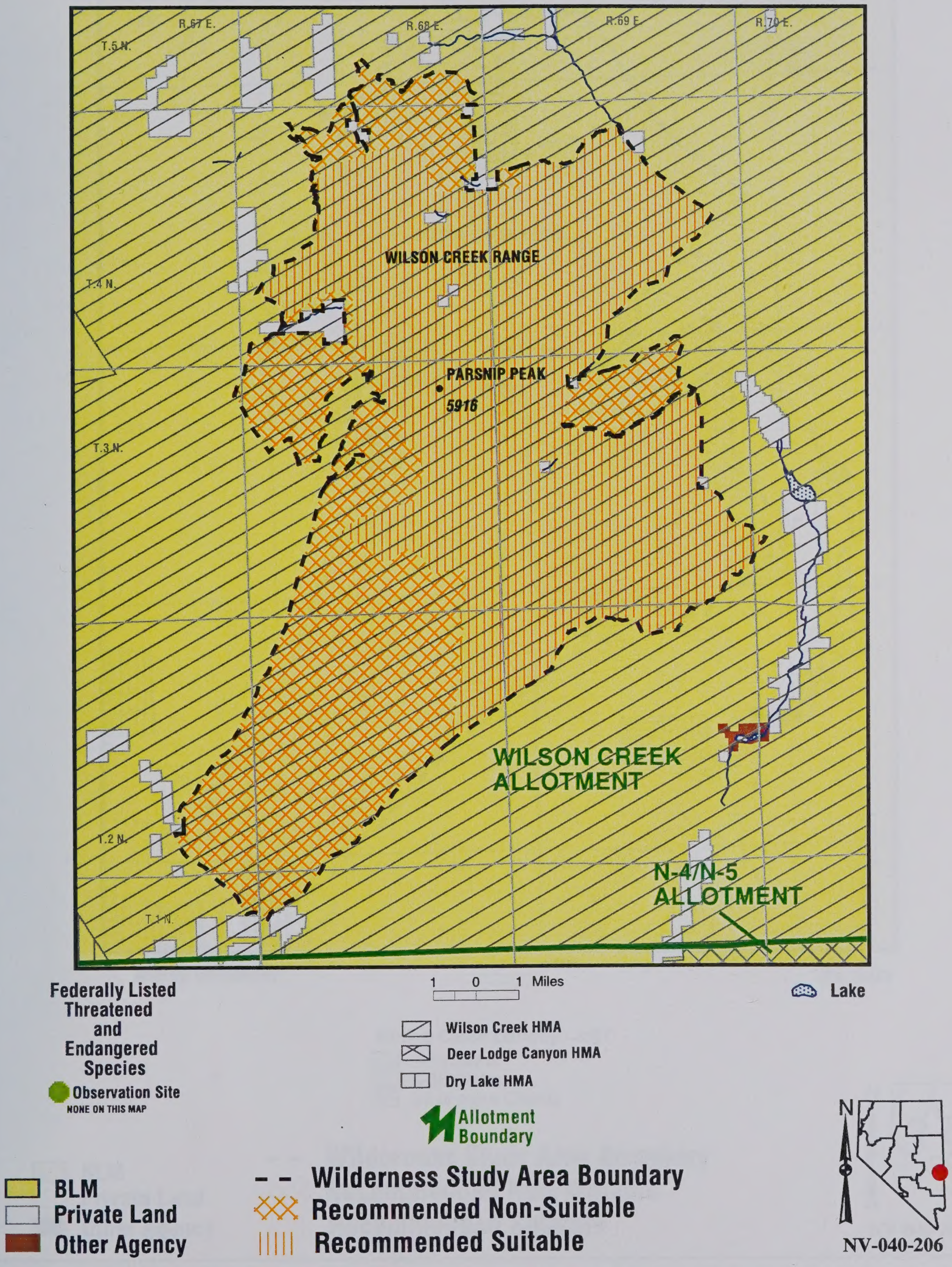
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
R.70 E.
T.5 N.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
WILSON CREEK RANGE
PARSNIP PEAK
5916
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
USGS Monitoring Well
Communication Site
Road
Pipeline
Railroad
Powerline
Telephone Line
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-206

10/23/2000

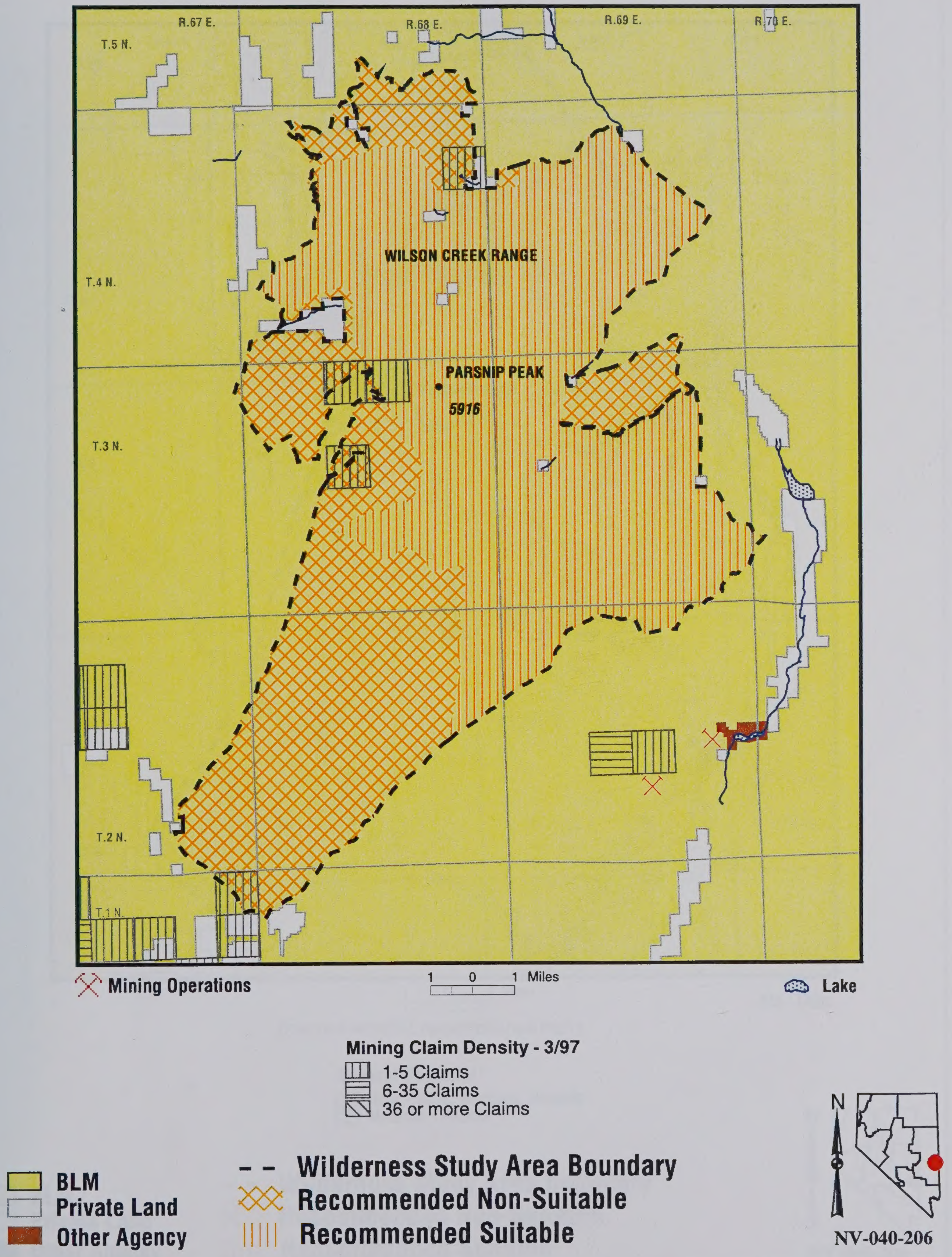
Parsnip Peak Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES

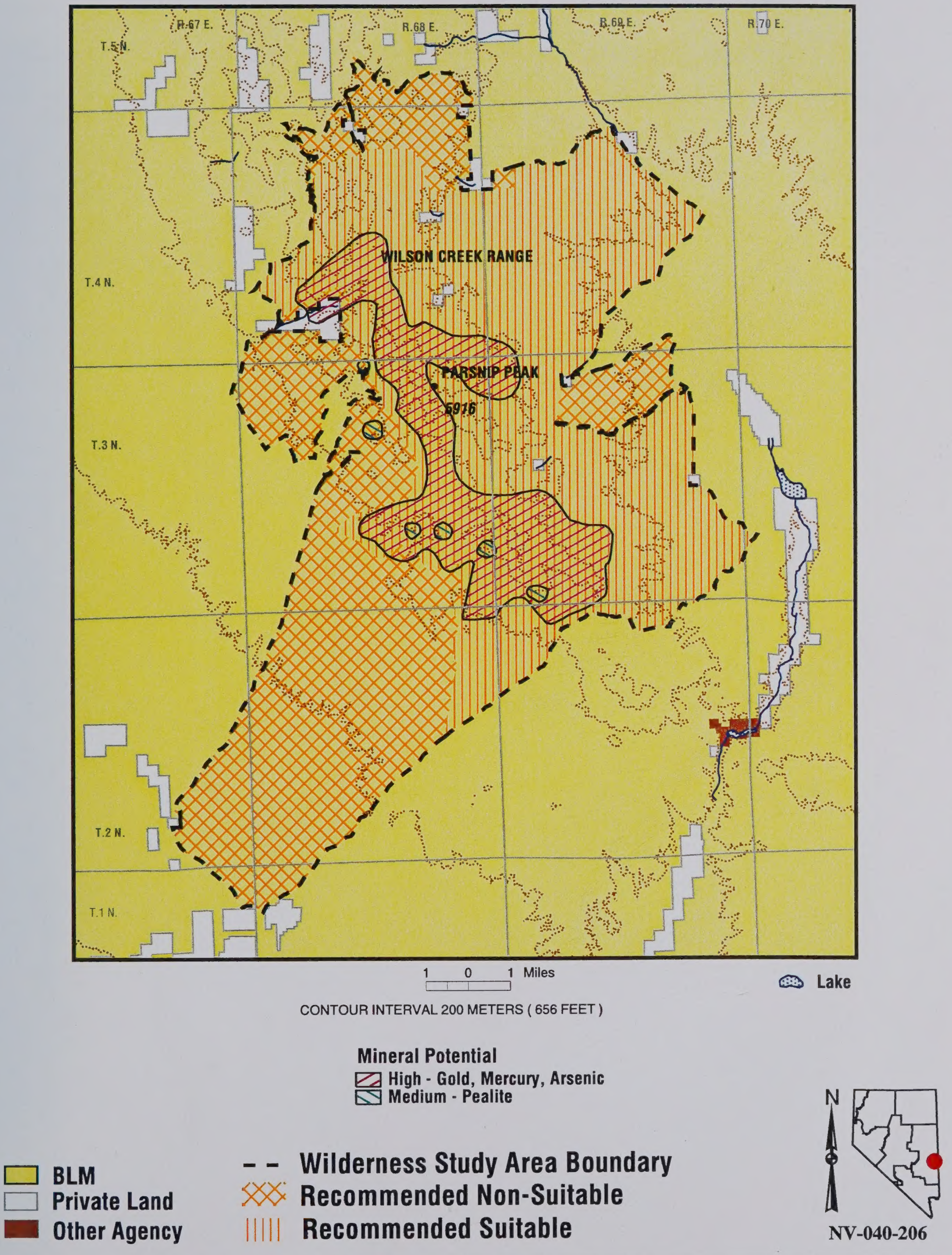

R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E
R.70 E.
T.5 N.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
WILSON CREEK RANGE
PARSNIP PEAK
5916
WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT
N-4/N-5 ALLOTMENT
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Wilson Creek HMA
Deer Lodge Canyon HMA
Dry Lake HMA
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-206

Parsnip Peak Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
R.70 E.
T.5 N.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
WILSON CREEK RANGE
PARSNIP PEAK
5916
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-206

Parsnip Peak Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.67 E.
R.68 E.
R.69 E.
R.70 E.
T.5 N.
T.4 N.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
WILSON CREEK RANGE
PARSNIP PEAK
5916
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Mineral Potential
High - Gold, Mercury, Arsenic
Medium - Pealite
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-206

WORTHINGTON MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 47,633 acres

The Worthington Mountains WSA (NV-040-242) is located in a remote part of the Ely District within Lincoln County in east-central Nevada. The nearest paved highway is about 15 miles to the south, and the nearest incorporated town is Alamo, Nevada, approximately 38 miles southeast. The WSA is comprised entirely of public land with no private or State inholdings.

Most of the boundary is comprised of dirt roads and jeep trails. The east boundary of the WSA is formed by a mile and a half portion of County Road 433 which connects to the Freiburg Well-Rhodes Spring Road on the west side of Garden Valley. An unnamed jeep trail along the southern terminus of the Worthington Mountains forms the southern boundary of the WSA. A dirt road traversing north-south along the alluvial slopes in Sand Spring Valley is the WSA's western boundary. The northern boundary is formed by a combination of connecting roads, section lines and unnatural man-made features near the Freiberg mining area.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 26,587 acres recommended for wilderness
21,046 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the Worthington Mountains WSA is to designate 26,587 acres as wilderness and release 21,046 acres for uses other than wilderness. The recommendation is based on the rugged wilderness values present, the lack of competing uses or other resource values, ease of management, and public support. The incredibly steep nature of the WSA hinders almost every competing use, and the lack of private or State inholdings helps eliminate potential conflicts in the future. It is this imposing character that provides an outstanding diversity of opportunities for recreation for those willing to seek them out. Foremost among these opportunities leading to a wilderness recommendation are the spelunking opportunities in Leviathan Cave. Also included in the recommendation area are the eastern alluvial approaches of the Worthington Range which are almost totally free of man's imprints. This particular landform received strong public support which led to the wilderness recommendation. Ordinarily, alluvial bajadas are excluded because of unnaturalness or unmanageability; however, the contiguity of this feature compliments the wilderness values of the mountain range as it provides the basin portion of the basin and range province. The relative ease of management also contributed to the recommendation. With the exception of a few mining claims in the northern portion of the WSA, interest in other land uses within the WSA is low.

Several portions of the WSA were recommended for uses other than wilderness due to relatively lower wilderness values, numerous unnatural features, and manageability concerns. These areas contain noticeable roads, ways, pipelines and fence along the sparsely vegetated west bench and detract from the area's naturalness. In addition, the roads penetrating this portion allow easy access into the surrounding unroaded areas. Use would likely continue, creating additional ways even if the area were designated as wilderness. A low foothill area contributes little to the wilderness values of the area, and is physically separated from the mountain range by a canyon through which a road passes to Stink Bug Spring. Another small area is not recommended for wilderness because it is cut off from the rest of the WSA by a way that is used as access to private land just north of the WSA.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The mountainous portion of this WSA which is recommended for wilderness has been maintained in a pristine condition largely due to the extremely rugged nature of the terrain as well as its remoteness from human populations. As a result, most of the area shows little sign of the presence of

man. The east bench, also recommended for wilderness, is totally free of manmade features except for three faint ways created solely by the occasional passage of vehicles associated with livestock grazing.

The more open west bench, recommended for uses other than wilderness has pipelines, a fenceline, and numerous roads and ways are present. While the impact of these intrusions does not greatly affect the overall natural appearance of the bench, they do significantly affect limited portions due to the straight-line configuration of the structures and roads. The lack of good screening on the sloping, low sage-covered bench contributes to the unnatural visual effect of these intrusions.

B. Solitude: The opportunities for solitude in the Worthington Mountains are good but not considered outstanding. Although the configuration of the WSA is several miles broad, the mountain range itself is a single narrow ridge and use would tend to concentrate along its spine. Excellent topographic screening is provided by the many side canyons but in most cases vegetative screening is sparse. Most wilderness use will tend to center around Leviathan Cave, since most people who commit the time and effort to visit the area will wish to see its best known feature. The extensive hike required to reach this destination point, however, will serve to limit use. Whether around Leviathan Cave or along the relatively open and passible ridgeline, visitors are not likely to run into many other users because of the remote and inaccessible nature of the WSA. Solitude is adversely affected by the frequent U.S. Air Force low level flight training over the WSA. Training is both subsonic and supersonic, and sometimes occurs below 500 feet above ground level.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Outstanding opportunities for recreation exist in the portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness. Leviathan Cave provides outstanding opportunities for spelunking with many different cave features. The arduous climb to the cave from the base of the mountain is itself an adventure which forms an integral part of the experience of the cave. The craggy nature of the peaks along the ridgeline interspersed with contorted conifers and lichen covered rocks, hidden pockets of ponderosa pines in the drainages, provide a remote setting in which high quality opportunities for hiking, nature study, primitive backpacking, camping, rock climbing, and photography can be enjoyed. This is a different kind of wilderness. It's appeal doesn't come from brilliant fall color or high mountain streams. Instead, austerity and ruggedness are its hallmarks.

The nonwilderness portion of the WSA offers recreation opportunities of a much lower quality than the area recommended for wilderness because is it unforested and relatively featureless and exists more as a barrier to be crossed to achieve access to the mountains rather than as a recreation destination.

D. Special Features: There are three known caves more than 100 feet deep in the extensive limestone deposits of the WSA. Leviathan Cave, already described, is the largest of these. Jinx and Lavender Caves are much smaller and are located in the same part of the mountain range as is Leviathan Cave. Potential is very high for the discovery of additional caves. Bristlecone pines occur in the higher elevations of the Worthington Mountains WSA, widely and sparsely scattered over at least 2,000 acres. Among those which have been dated in the area, the oldest is over 2,100 years old. Scattered ponderosa pines occur in the north end of the WSA and although not an unusual species, their occurrence in this part of Nevada is noteworthy. Although the WSA has never undergone an archaeological inventory, several prehistoric artifacts have been reported. Among these are an Indian sandal, a metate, and a hunting blind.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The area recommended for wilderness and nonwilderness are manageable as wilderness in the long term with little cost or effort. There are no private lands located within the entire WSA. Slight manageability problems could be met in the north end of the WSA where it abuts the Freiburg Mining District. Currently there is no production from the area and exploration interest is very low; however, claims staked throughout the mining district overlap onto the area recommended for wilderness. The eastern alluvial approaches included in the recommended wilderness are open, sagebrush covered country. Manageability of this area

presents little difficulty due to the absence of competing resource uses (except livestock grazing) and the lack of existing access and limited traffic in the valley.

The nonwilderness areas would be manageable, but with some difficultly. Several access routes penetrate deeply into the area, lending easy access to unroaded adjacent areas. The relative remoteness of this area from administrative headquarters would incur high costs for ground patrol. Aerial reconnaissance patrols would be conducted at some risk since this airspace is an active military operating area.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment for the Worthington Mountains WSA in 1987 (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1728-A). The report rates the majority of the area recommended for wilderness as having a low potential for the occurrence of all metals. One small area flanking Worthington Peak on the north end of the area recommended for wilderness was identified as having moderate potential for the occurrence of base (copper, lead, zinc) and precious (silver and gold) metals. The mineral potential is associated with limestone replacement deposits which are known to occur within the Freiburg Mining District adjacent to the WSA. Most surface deposits have been mined, and small underground deposits are not economically attractive.

Energy resources are unknown in this region and the geologic environment is not favorable for the occurrence of these resources.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the inventory phase two comments were received mentioning that there are mineral values present in the WSA. Issues raised during the study phase included the presence of wilderness values such as spelunking in Leviathan Cave, the scenic limestone cliffs, bristlecone pine and bighorn sheep habitat, and mineral potential.

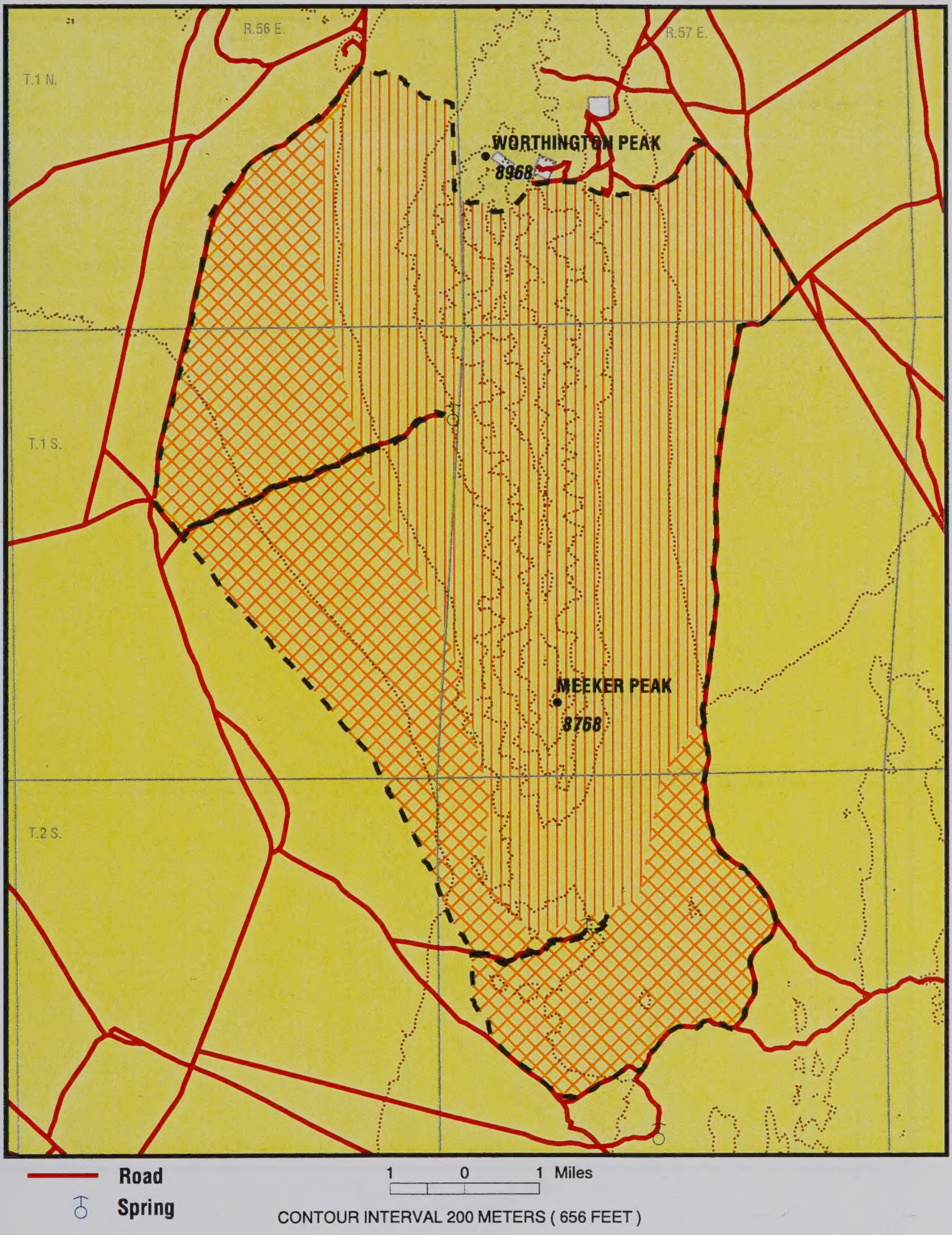
During public review of draft wilderness recommendations 31 comments were received specifically addressing the Worthington Mountains WSA. In general, all 31 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA. The main points mentioned in support of this area as wilderness were outstanding limestone ridges, Leviathan Cave, bristlecone pine, need to protect the undeveloped alluvial fans and valley portions of the unit which are essential to its scenic and ecological integrity, archaeological values, and the area's manageability. Mineral potential in the north of the unit was the reason given for favoring a reduced wilderness proposal.

The Governor of Nevada as well as the Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, the Department of Wildlife, and Historic Preservation and Archeology, supported wilderness. The Lincoln County Conservation District supported wilderness "due to the unique topography, land forms and Indian culture, as long as the rights of existing mineral location is not curtailed."

One letter was received on the final wilderness recommendation from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported the BLM's wilderness proposal.

Worthington Mountains Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.56 E.
R.57 E.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
T.2 S.
WORTHINGTON PEAK
8968
MEEKER PEAK
8768
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

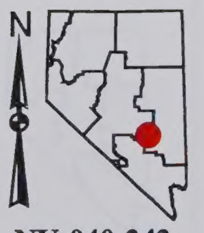
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

||||| **Recommended Suitable**

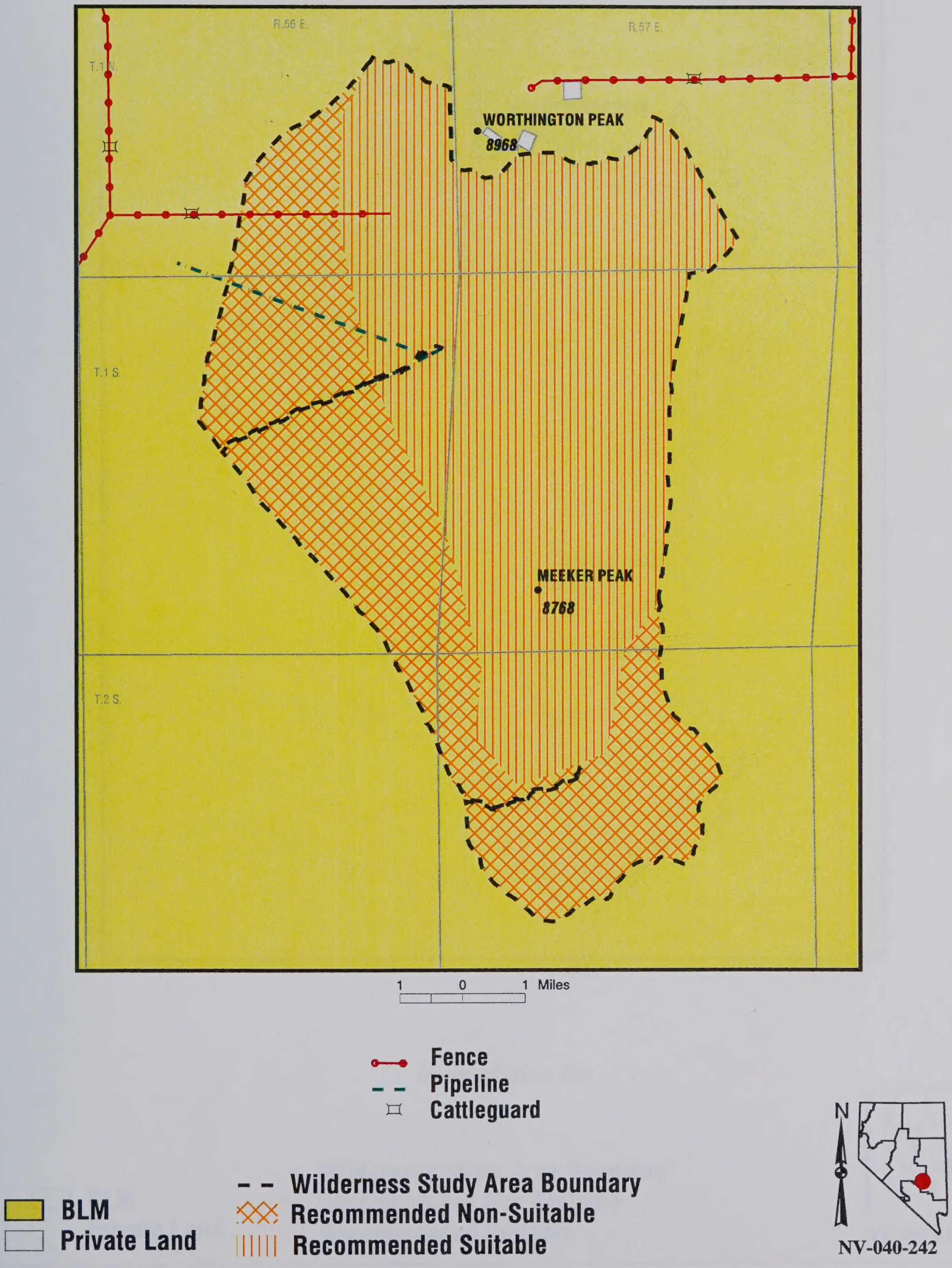


NV-040-242

10/23/2000

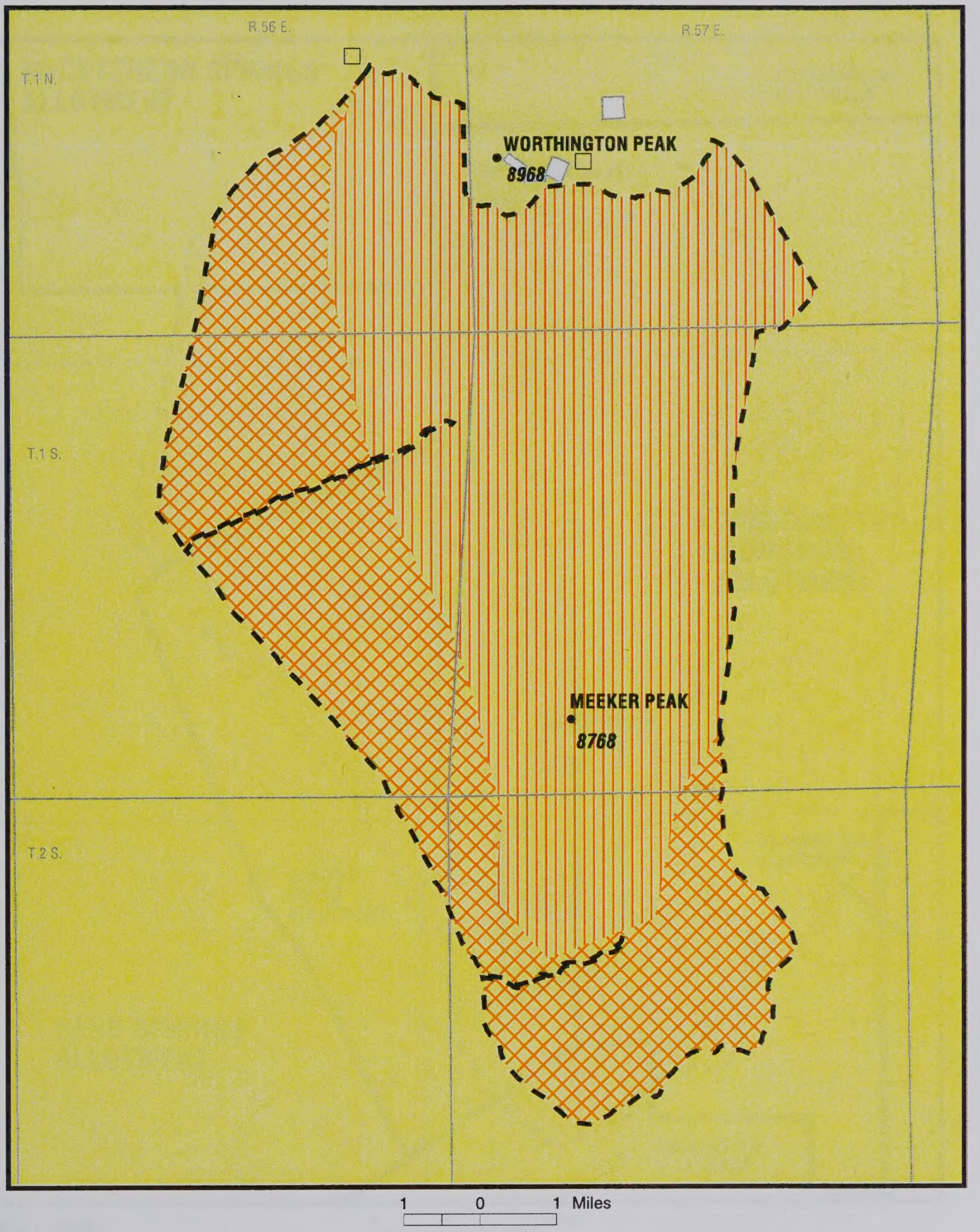
Worthington Mountains Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.56 E.
R.57 E.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
T.2 S.
WORTHINGTON PEAK
8968
MEEKER PEAK
8768
1 0 1 Miles
Fence
Pipeline
Cattleguard
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-040-242

Worthington Mountains Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.56 E.
R.57 E.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
T.2 S.
WORTHINGTON PEAK
8968
MEEKER PEAK
8768
1
0
1 Miles

☐ Communication Site

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

🟨 BLM

☐ Private Land

▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

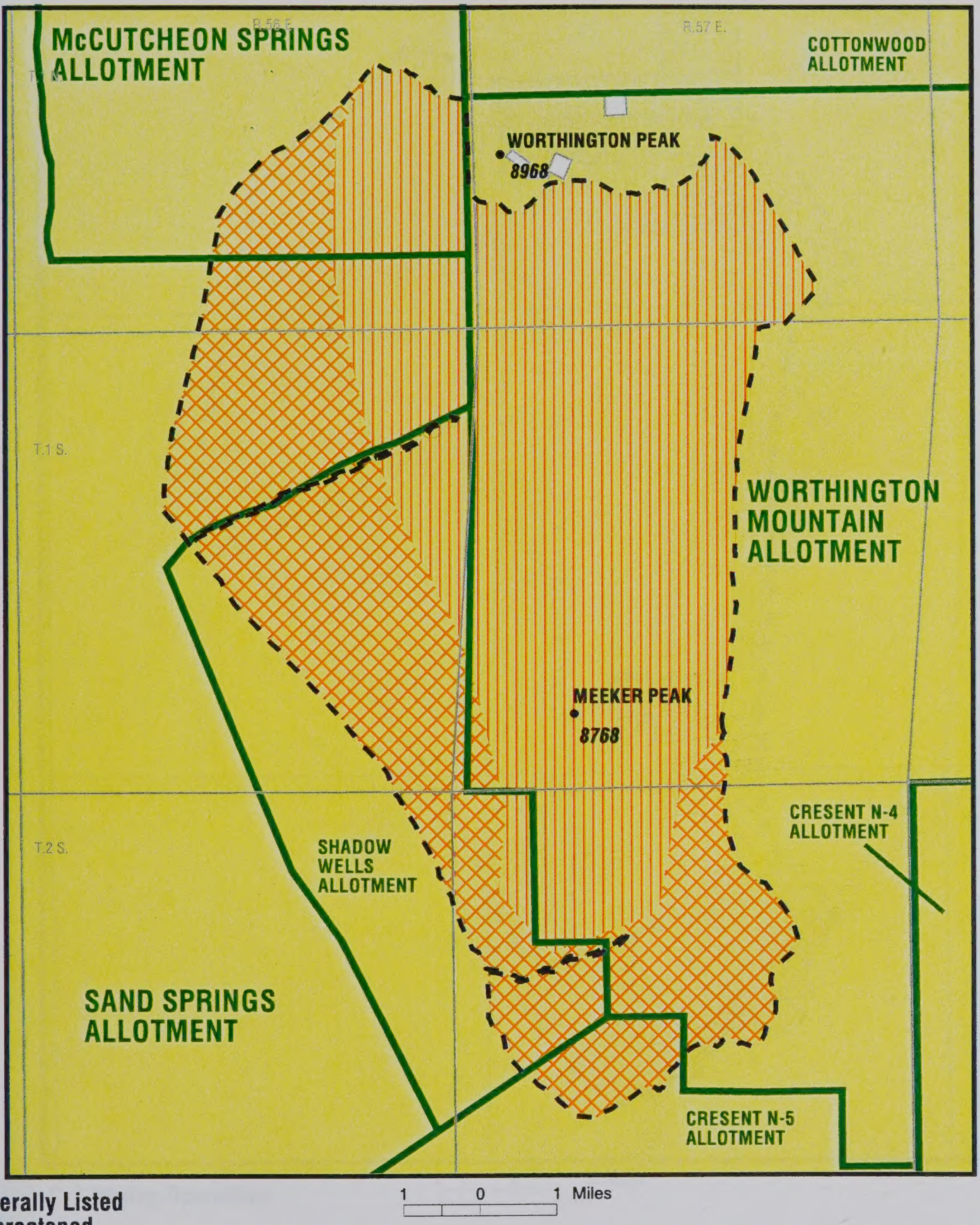
||||| Recommended Suitable

NV-040-242

10/23/2000

Worthington Mountains Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


McCUTCHEON SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
R.56 E.
R.57 E.
COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT
WORTHINGTON PEAK
8968
T.1 S.
WORTHINGTON MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT
MEEKER PEAK
8768
T.2 S.
SHADOW WELLS ALLOTMENT
CRESENT N-4 ALLOTMENT
SAND SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
CRESENT N-5 ALLOTMENT
1 0 1 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site

NONE ON THIS MAP

NO HMA ON THIS MAP

Allotment Boundary

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

XX Recommended Non-Suitable

||||| Recommended Suitable

🟨 BLM

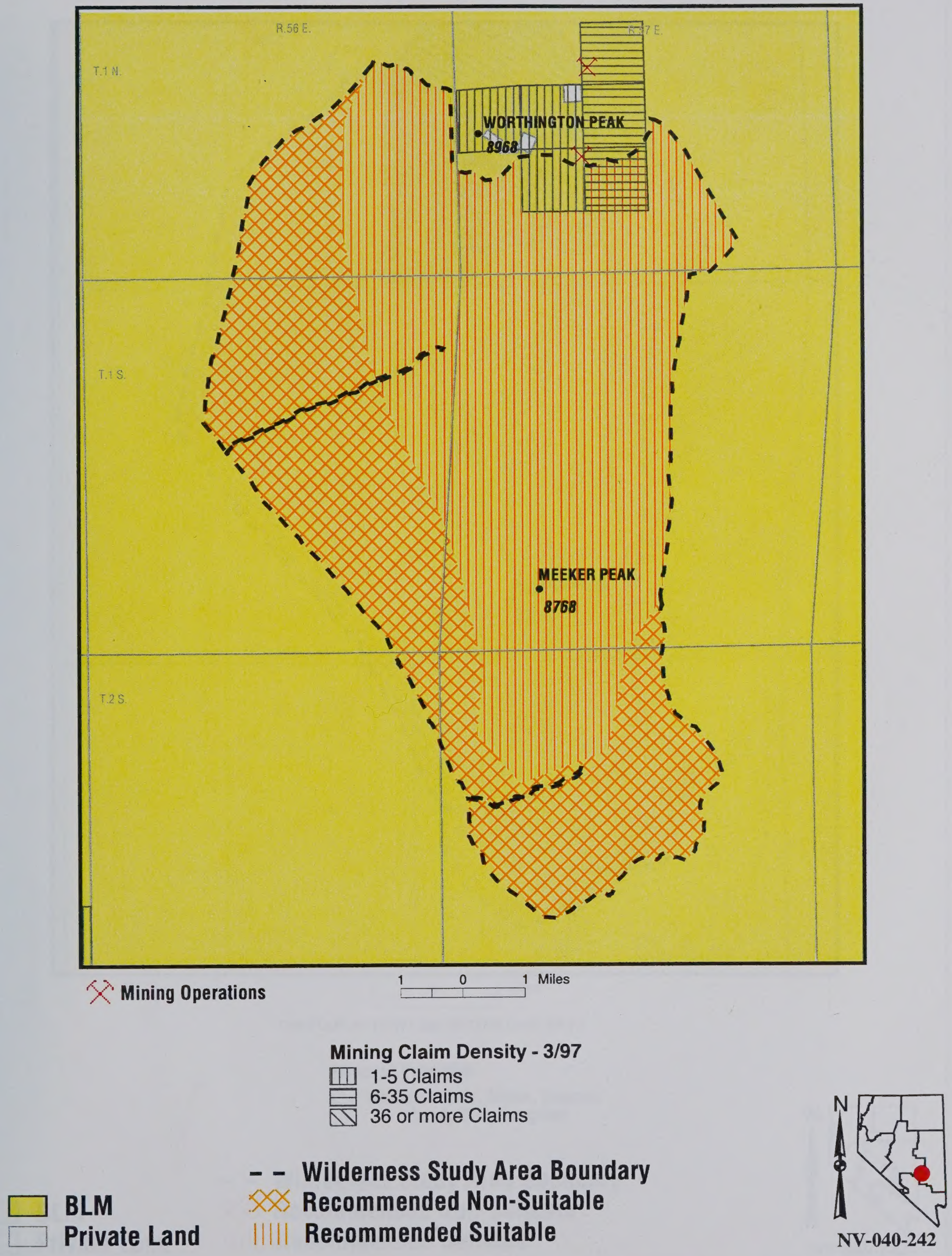
☐ Private Land

NV-040-242

10/23/2000

Worthington Mountains Wilderness Study Area

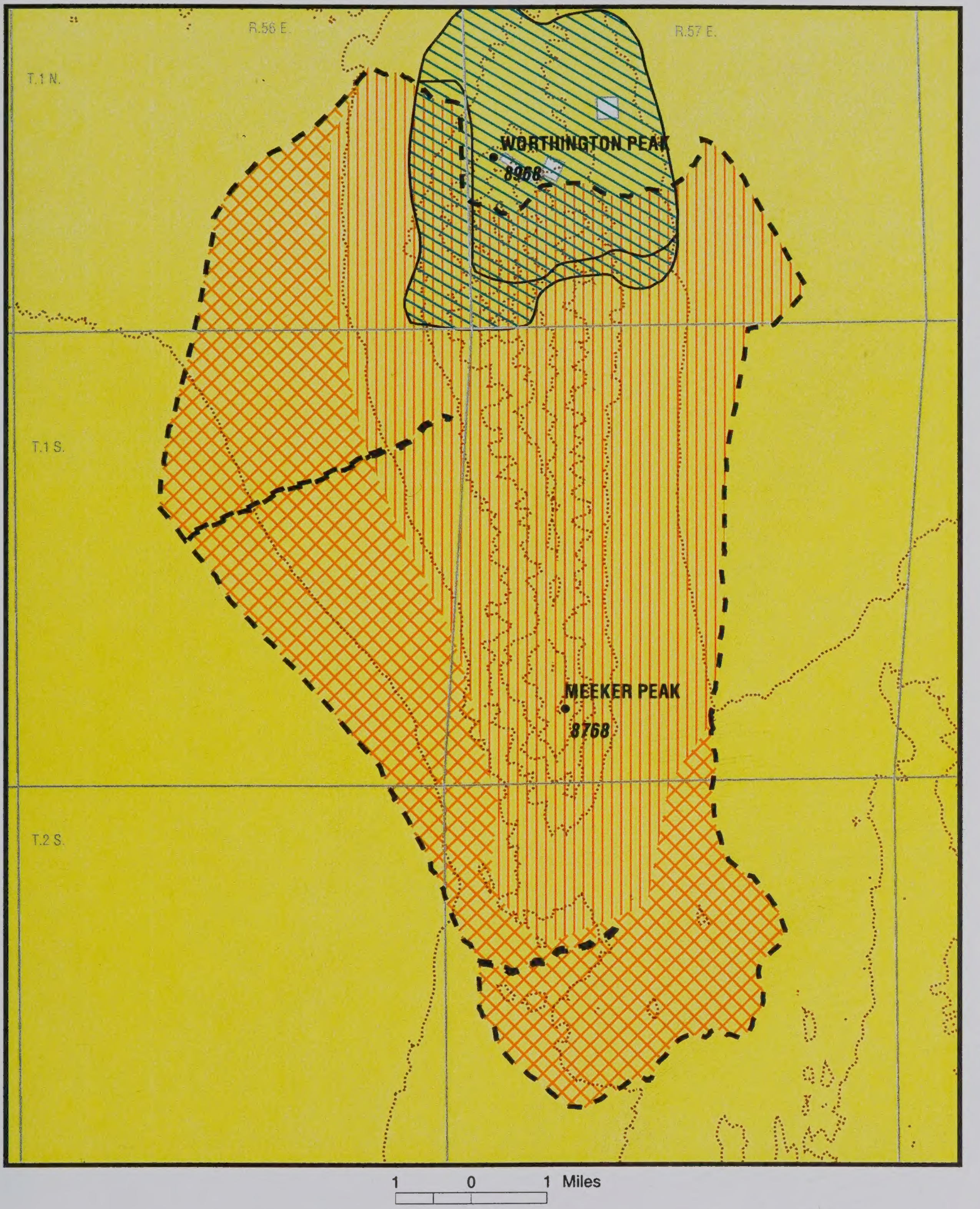
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.56 E.
R.57 E.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
T.2 S.
WORTHINGTON PEAK
8968
MEEKER PEAK
8768
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-040-242

10/23/2000

Worthington Mountains Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.56 E.
R.57 E.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
T.2 S.
WORTHINGTON PEAK
8968
MEEKER PEAK
8768
1
0
1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **Medium - Gold, Silver, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Tungsten**

– – Wilderness Study Area Boundary

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

▩ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

|||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-040-242

WEEPAH SPRING WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 61,137 acres

The Weepah Spring WSA (NV-040-246) is located in east-central Nevada within Lincoln County. The entire WSA is comprised of 61,137 acres of public land with no private or State inholdings. This WSA is located in the Seaman Range, about 120 miles north of Las Vegas, and 90 miles south of Ely, Nevada. Alamo, Nevada the nearest incorporated town, is located approximately 35 miles to the south.

The western boundary of the WSA is mostly formed by a dirt road that traverses north-south along the eastern alluvial benches of Coal Valley. Portions of this boundary are also based on jeep trails, unnatural features, and geographic features. The southwest boundary is formed by a road which follows an unnamed arroyo draining into the White River Narrows. The southeast boundary parallels about 7 miles of Nevada State Highway 318. The eastern boundary is delineated by the 5600 foot contour line which connects the terminal ends of several jeep trails. Additional roads and jeep trails form the remaining portion of the eastern and northeastern boundary. Two jeep trails intersecting the Timber Mountain Pass Road and connected by the 6200 foot contour line form the northern boundary of the WSA.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 50,499 acres recommended for wilderness
10,638 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for the Weepah Spring WSA is to designate 50,499 acres as wilderness and 10,638 acres for uses other than wilderness. A portion of the WSA was recommended for wilderness due to its high wilderness values including high scenic qualities and an abundance of special features, and a limited amount of competing resource uses. The area recommended for wilderness is an excellent, unspoiled example of mountain ranges representative of the Great Basin. A great variety of topographic relief, combined with diverse and sometimes unusual flora in a large, seemingly unconfined setting, provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, as well as excellent recreational opportunities. These are enhanced by the high scenic value of the area and its wealth of special features. In addition, the portion recommended for wilderness is easily managed as wilderness.

Portions of the WSA that have high mineral potential or consist of alluvial slopes and lower foothills with scant vegetation relatively lower wilderness values. Eliminating these areas from the proposed wilderness improves the configuration of the WSA as a whole, making it more compact without odd shaped stringers. The proposed wilderness boundary was drawn to eliminate as much of the area with high mineral potential and existing mining claims as possible, while still keeping a manageable and identifiable boundary.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: Nearly all of the Weepah Spring WSA is in a pristine condition. Access is restricted for the most part to the fringes of the area and the ruggedness of the WSA has served to keep man's intrusions to a minimum. On the west side of the WSA, a small, unnatural area has been cherrystemmed out of the unit but remains encircled by it. A small spring facility lies within the WSA at Weepah Spring. Cherrystemmed routes, primitive in nature, penetrate the boundary of the WSA on the southeast. All these unnatural features are minor, peripheral, and do not affect in any way the outstanding naturalness of the area as a whole.

B. Solitude: Outstanding opportunities for solitude exist in abundance within the portion of the Weepah Spring WSA recommended for wilderness. The large size of the area and the breadth of the Seaman Range and Timber Mountain which make up the WSA, are primarily responsible for the outstanding solitude. These mountains consist of individual peaks and a myriad of canyons, creating a maze-like

character that could host a large number of users and still provide outstanding solitude. Its remoteness from populations, and its excellent topographic and vegetative screening all contribute to an environment where visitors can totally remove themselves from the sights and sounds of man.

Opportunities for solitude in the recommended nonwilderness portions of the WSA, are of lower quality due to the open, unscreened nature of much of the acreage.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** The wilderness inventory determined that opportunities for recreation are very good in the WSA but are less than outstanding. Specific opportunities for recreation include backpacking, hiking, and camping. Nature study in this undisturbed, unusual area is excellent. Horseback riding in the more open southern part of the WSA is very good. Hunting and trapping opportunities occur in various portions of the area. Recreation opportunities are excellent throughout the core of the WSA from the forested areas to the eroded volcanic cliffs. Recreational opportunities diminish in quality along the bench and valley areas within the recommended nonwilderness portions.

D. **Special Features:** The scenic values of the Seaman Range are high due to the great diversity of geologic features present, and these serve as a special feature of the WSA. Although most stands of ponderosa in eastern Nevada are relict stands, this one is unique in that active regeneration is obvious where young saplings grow next to trees over 3 feet in diameter. As perhaps the largest stand of ponderosa pine in eastern Nevada, the area serves as an important source of genetic diversity and contributes as a special feature with scientific, scenic, and educational value that enhances the area's wilderness value.

The White River Narrows Archaeological District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, lies within the southern portion of the WSA and represents one of the largest and most well-known petroglyph concentrations in eastern Nevada. Other prehistoric sites exist within the WSA including shelter caves, hunting blinds and open camp sites. The Seaman Range wild horse herd range into the WSA along its western flank and southern foothills. For many persons, especially those who would use the area for wilderness recreation, wild horses are part of and enhance the diversity of wilderness experience.

4. MANAGEABILITY

All but the northwest portion of the WSA is manageable as wilderness in the long term. The lack of private or State inholdings, the relatively self protecting rugged nature of the WSA, and the lack of competing resource values throughout most of the WSA ensure manageability of the area. Several slight manageability concerns have, however, affected the configuration of the recommended wilderness area. The northwest portion of the WSA has been identified by as having a high potential for disseminated gold. Wilderness values would be lost in this portion of the WSA for the long term if mineral deposits are located and developed.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The U.S. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment report for the Weepah Spring WSA in 1987, (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1728-E). The report indicated that the majority of the WSA has low potential for metallic mineral resources. An area of high potential for undiscovered deposits of disseminated gold and associated mercury is located on the western fringe of the unit. Past mining activity has occurred at the FNB and Red Head claim groups within this area.

Two very small localized areas on the eastern boundary are considered to possess moderate potential for mineral resources (gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc) associated with epithermal vein deposits. These areas have not been subject to prior mining activity or exploration.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

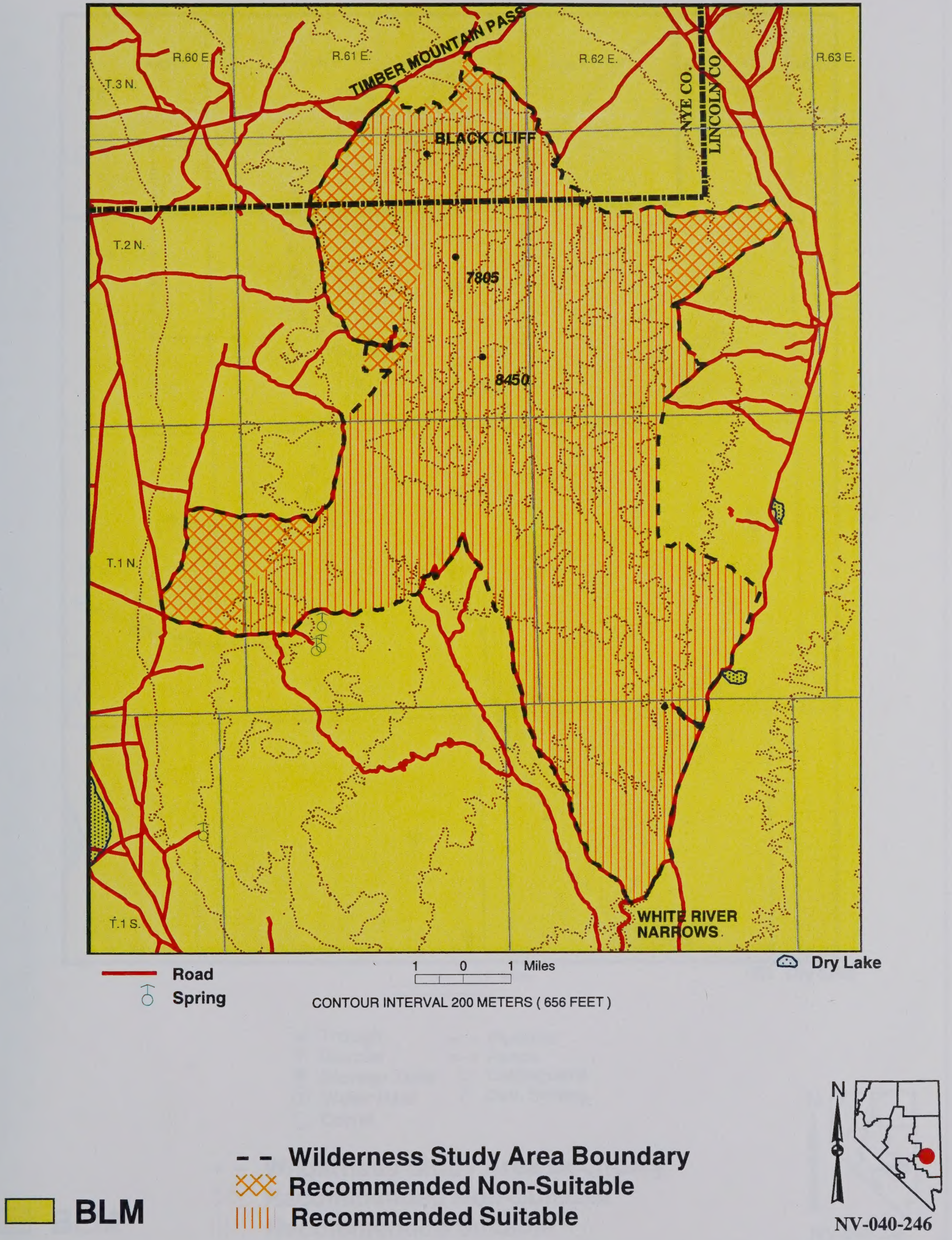
During the inventory phase two comments were received that mentioned other resource conflicts. One mentioned a conflict with livestock grazing, and the other mentioned mineral potential.

During public review of the draft wilderness recommendation, a total of 16 comments were received specifically addressing the Weepah Spring WSA. In general, 13 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA, two commentors supported no wilderness for the WSA while one commentor mentioned the Weepah Spring WSA but took no formal position on wilderness designation. The main points mentioned in support of this area as wilderness were the large stand of virgin ponderosa pine, wilderness values far outweigh the mineral potential, and that boundaries should be increased to include more land. The main points mentioned in favor of reducing the suitable portion were: the area's mineral potential, its limited access would protect it without wilderness designation, the northern boundaries should be reduced because of mineralization, and the boundaries should be pulled a half mile from US Highway 318.

The Governor of Nevada as well as the State Divisions of State Lands, Parks, Forestry, and Historic Preservation and Archeology, supported the area for wilderness but recommended the northwest corner be pulled back "to avoid what appears to be a substantial resource conflict." The Nevada Department of Wildlife supported the area as wilderness as well. The Lincoln County Conservation District opposed wilderness because of the area's mineralization and the limited access which will keep the southern portion of the unit wilderness.

One letter was received on the final wilderness recommendation from the Environmental Protection Agency which supported BLM's proposal.

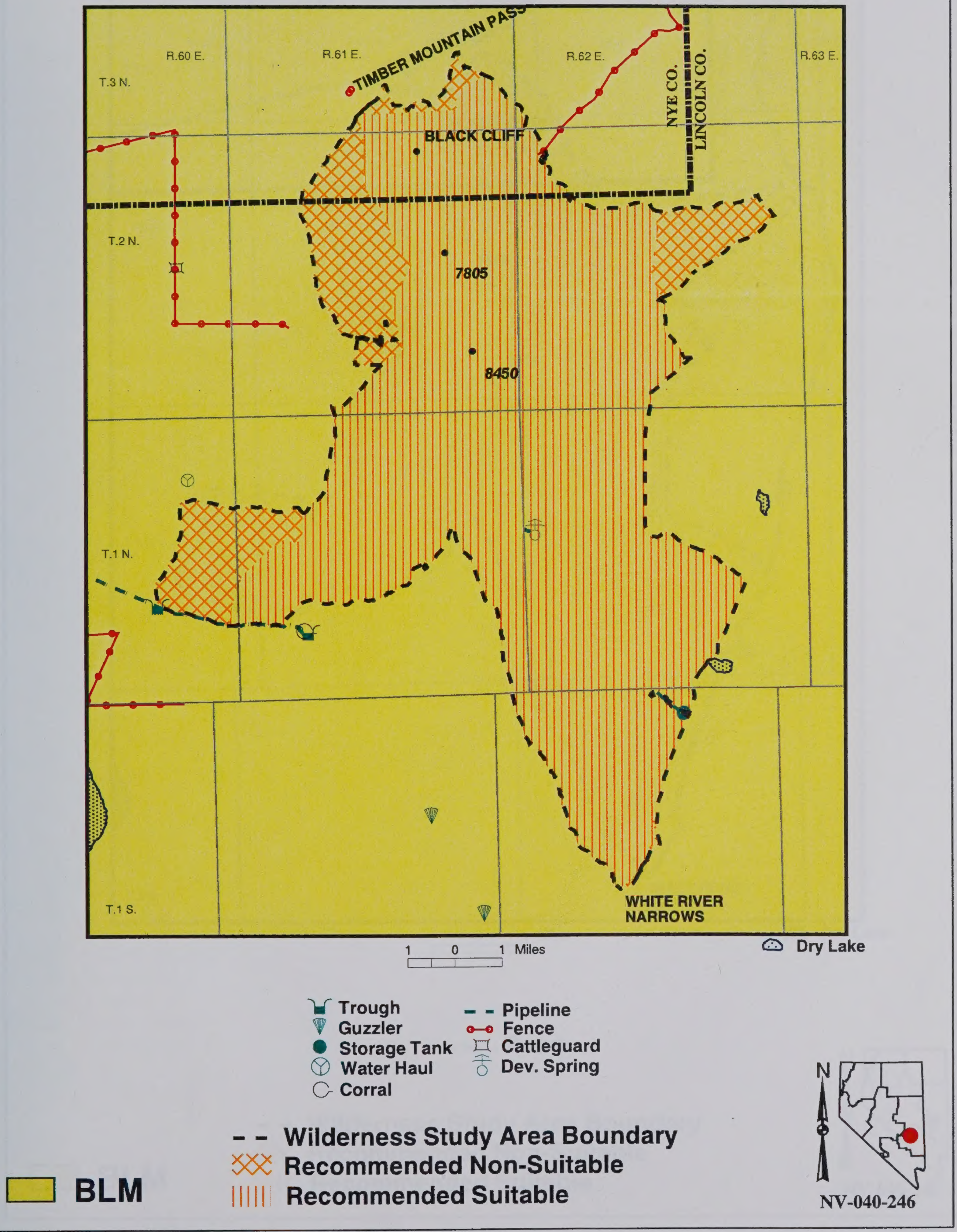
Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.60 E.
R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
TIMBER MOUNTAIN PASS
BLACK CLIFF
7805
8450
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
WHITE RIVER NARROWS
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Dry Lake
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
N
NV-040-246

10/23/2000

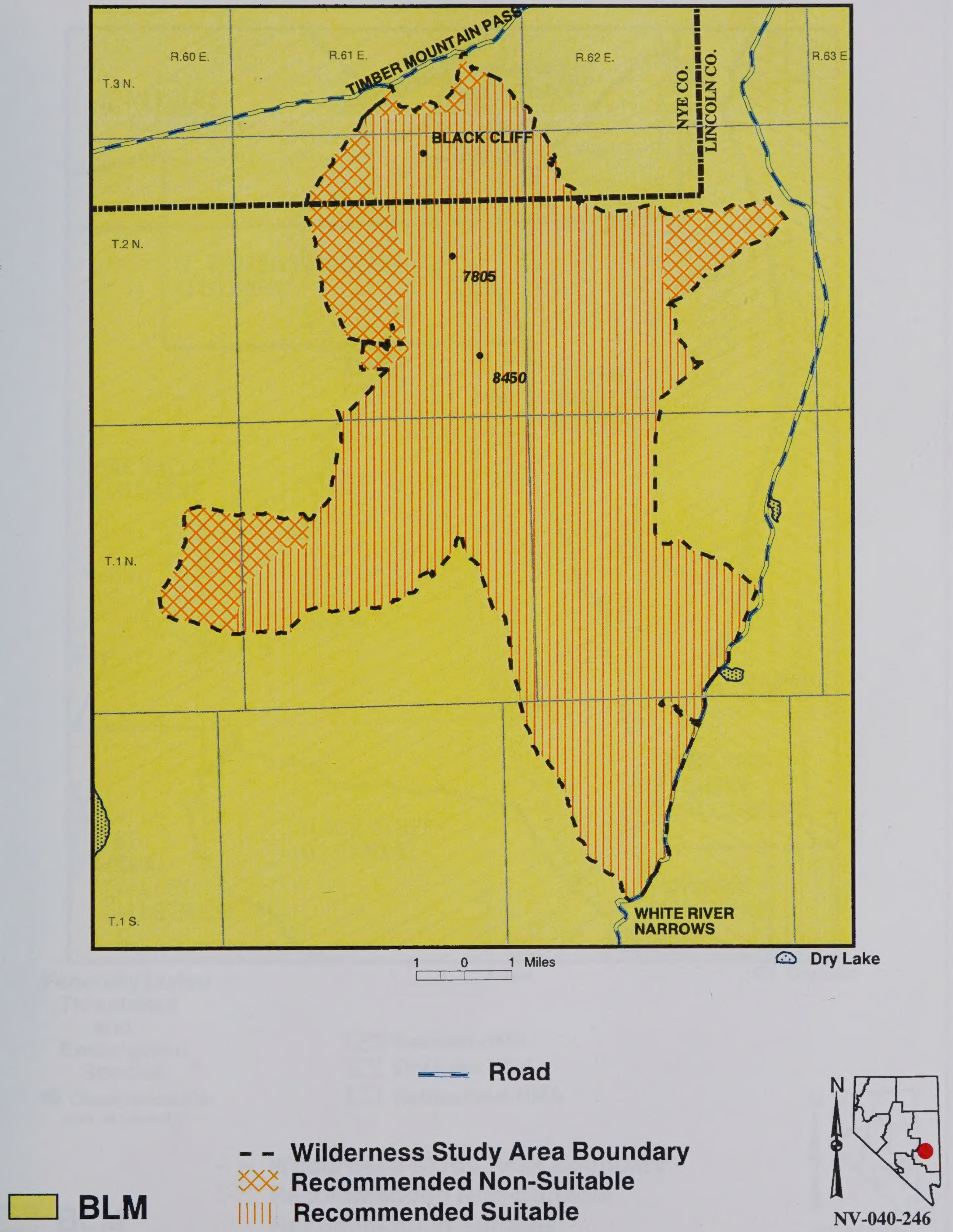
Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.60 E.
R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
TIMBER MOUNTAIN PASS
BLACK CLIFF
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
7805
8450
WHITE RIVER NARROWS
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake
Trough
Guzzler
Storage Tank
Water Haul
Corral
Pipeline
Fence
Cattleguard
Dev. Spring
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
N
NV-040-246

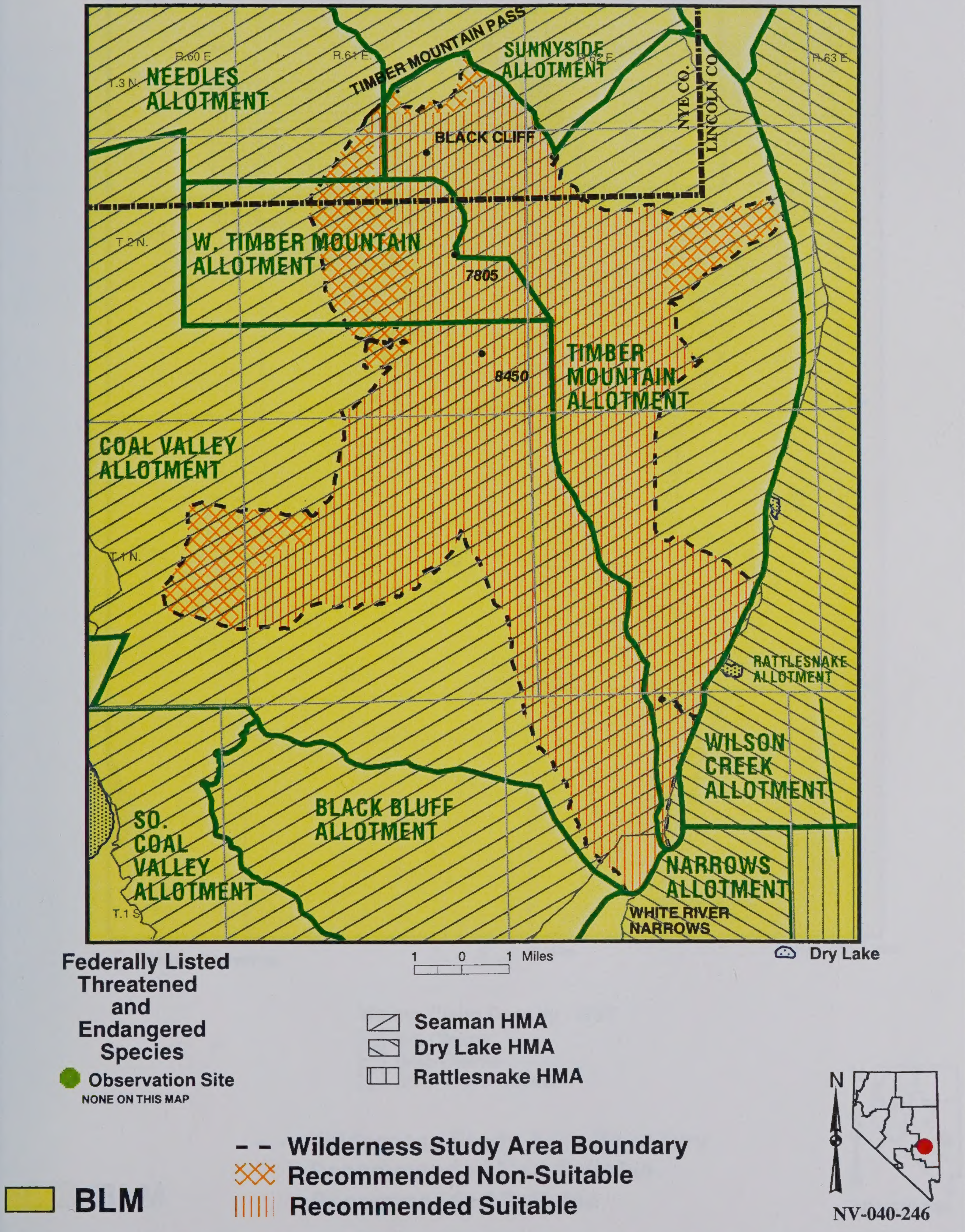
Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.60 E.
R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
TIMBER MOUNTAIN PASS
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
BLACK CLIFF
7805
8450
WHITE RIVER NARROWS
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake
Road
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
N
NV-040-246

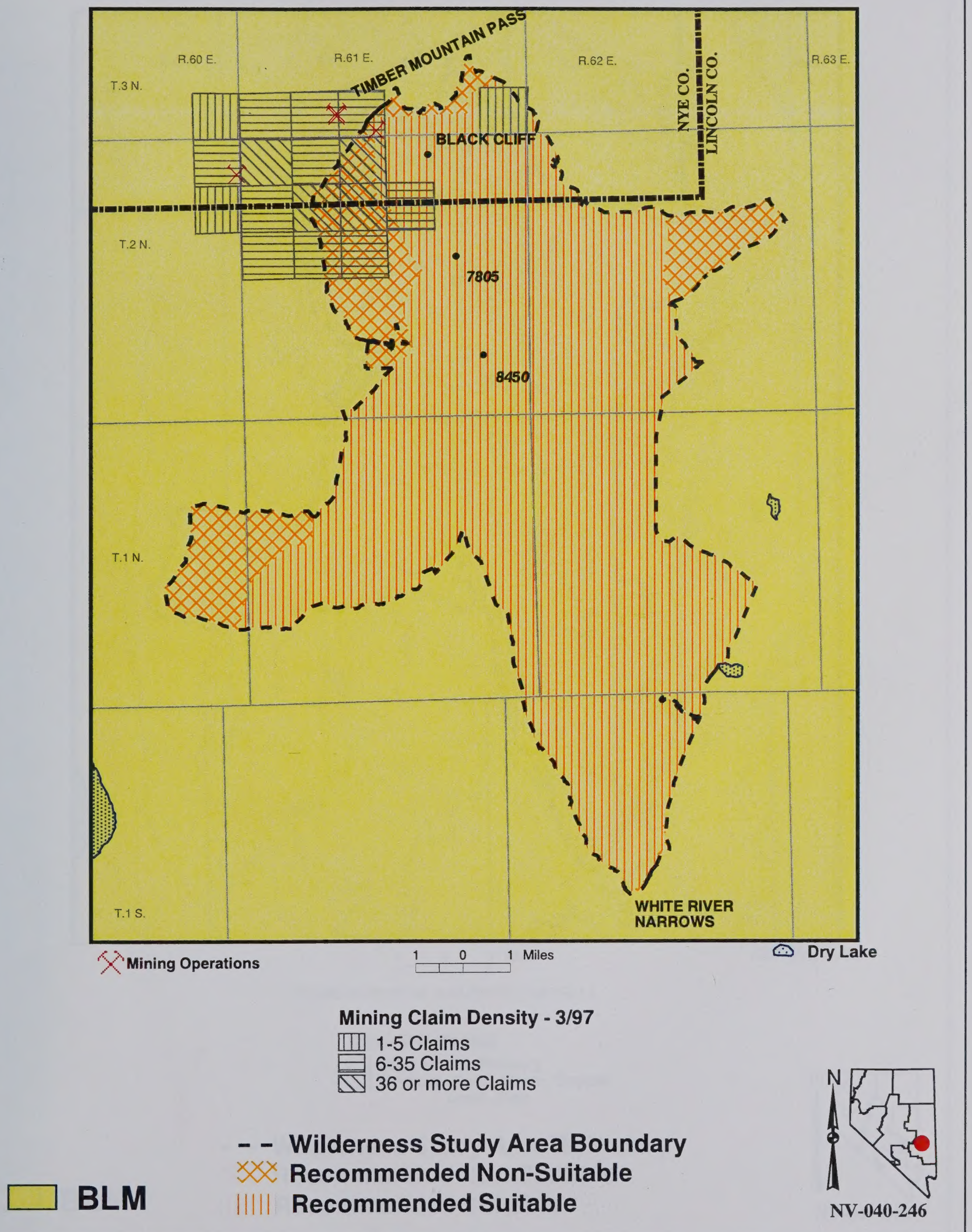
10/23/2000

Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Area
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.60 E.
R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
NEEDLES ALLOTMENT
TIMBER MOUNTAIN PASS
SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
BLACK CLIFF
W. TIMBER MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT
7805
8450
TIMBER MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT
COAL VALLEY ALLOTMENT
RATTLESNAKE ALLOTMENT
WILSON CREEK ALLOTMENT
BLACK BLUFF ALLOTMENT
SO. COAL VALLEY ALLOTMENT
NARROWS ALLOTMENT
WHITE RIVER NARROWS
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Seaman HMA
Dry Lake HMA
Rattlesnake HMA
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
N
NV-040-246

Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Area

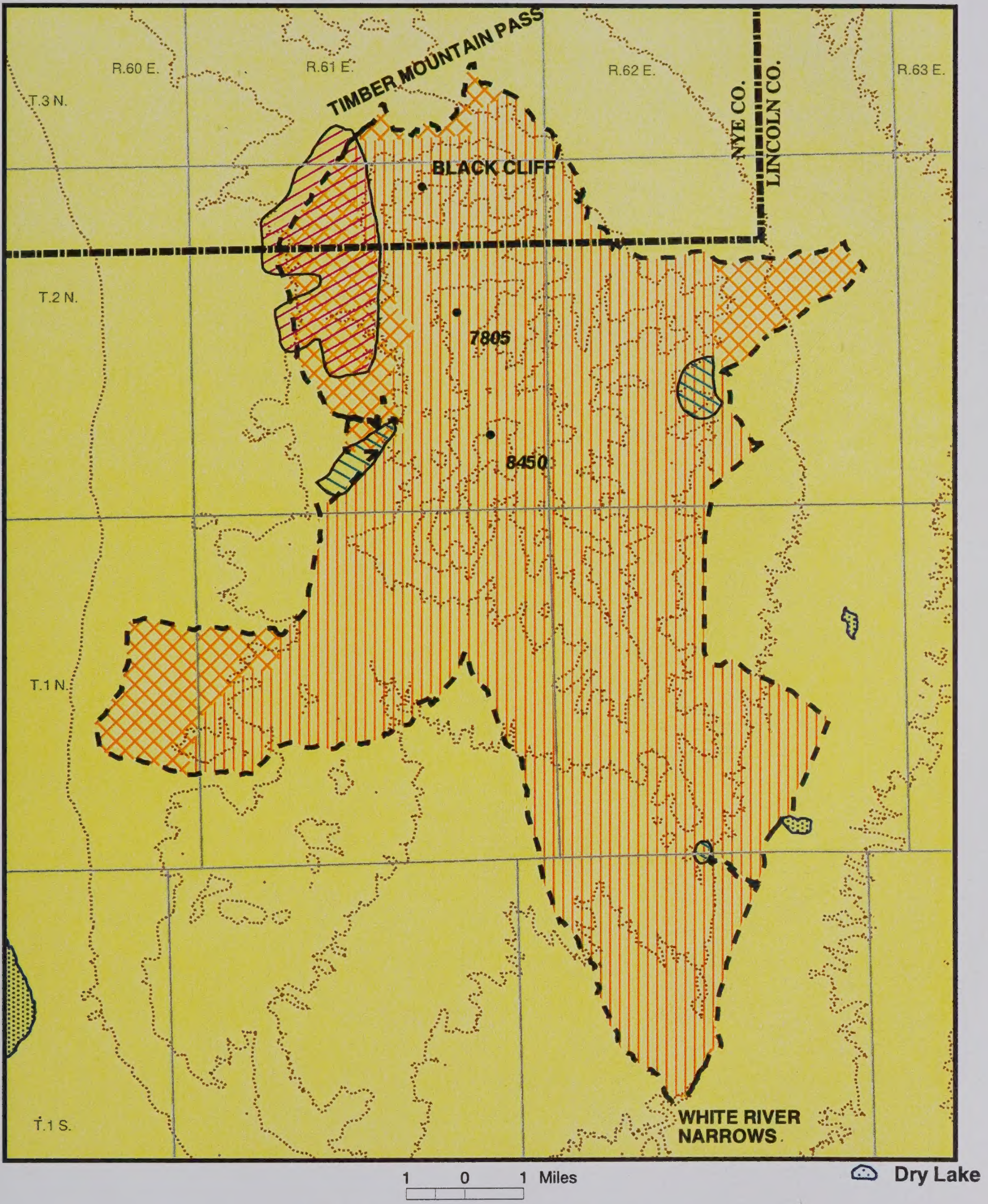
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.60 E.
R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
TIMBER MOUNTAIN PASS
BLACK CLIFF
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
7805
8450
WHITE RIVER NARROWS
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
N
NV-040-246

10/23/2000

Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.60 E.
R.61 E.
R.62 E.
R.63 E.
T.3 N.
T.2 N.
T.1 N.
T.1 S.
TIMBER MOUNTAIN PASS
BLACK CLIFF
NYE CO.
LINCOLN CO.
7805
8450
WHITE RIVER NARROWS
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ High - Gold, Mercury

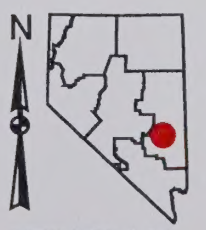
▨ Medium -Gold, Silver, Copper Lead, Zinc

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

|||| Recommended Suitable

🟨 BLM



NV-040-246

GOSHUTE CANYON INSTANT STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 7,650 acres

The Goshute Canyon Natural Area is located approximately 60 road miles north of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County and contains 7,650 acres of public lands. Except for the eastern and western portions of the natural area (2,641 acres), the bulk of the acreage (5,009 acres) is included with the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area (35,594 acres). The Goshute Canyon Natural Area was designated in 1970 for the protection of Utah Cutthroat Trout, an uncommon fish species confined to a few locations of the intermountain west. The fish is on the State of Nevada's endangered species list.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 0 acres recommended for wilderness 7,650 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The natural area was inventoried and evaluated separately from the comprehensive roadless inventory during a special project inventory in 1978 in conjunction with the Intermountain Power Project. That inventory found that the Goshute Canyon Natural Area did not possess sufficient wilderness character to warrant a recommendation for wilderness designation. The area appears to be natural but it does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Some supplemental values are present within the natural area such as scenic, archaeological, and scientific values.

Accordingly, the Instant Study Area was recommended for release from further wilderness consideration in the Goshute Canyon Natural Area Nevada BLM Wilderness Report dated February, 1980. The area did not qualify, by itself, as a WSA. However, as the report stated on page 16, the area "may qualify when considered with the contiguous roadless lands." The Section 603 inventory, authorized by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, included the middle portion of the Goshute Canyon Natural Area within the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

The long and short term effects of releasing the Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area from interim management protection would be that all uses which were previously compatible within the Natural Area outside of the boundaries of the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area would continue to be permitted.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The landscape character in general remains substantially natural. A four wheel drive road bounds the eastern side of the western portion of the Instant Study Area. The eastern area is bounded by a road to the south and traversed by a county road to the east. Other unnatural features of this area include riparian fence exclosures for the protection of fish habitat and several water diversion ditches.

B. Solitude: The open terrain and low vegetation of both portions the Instant Study Area limit the ability of the visitor to avoid others or the sights and sounds of traffic and ranching activities. Opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding in this area.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Hiking, camping, fishing, nature study and photography are some of the activities which may occur in this area, but neither the diversity nor quality of these activities are considered outstanding.

D. Special Features: The eastern portion may support populations of the Utah Cutthroat Trout.

4. **MANAGEABILITY**:

The area is not manageable as wilderness due to its small size, the lack of natural boundaries and limited wilderness character.

5. **ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES**

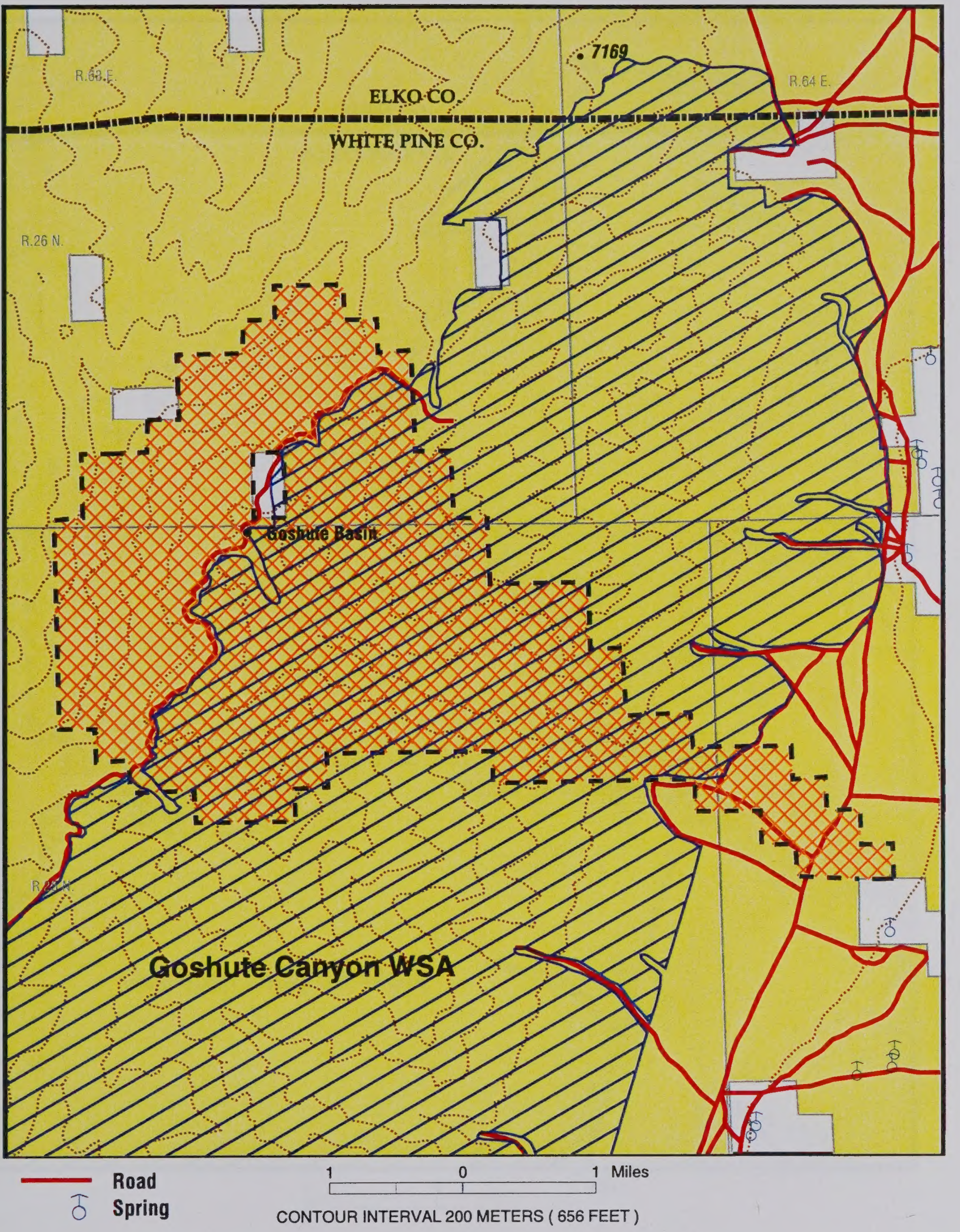
A minerals report from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey was prepared for the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area which includes the Natural Area. The potential for the occurrence of oil and gas resources within the study area is considered to be low. The findings of more recent oil and gas exploration in this area are not known. The potential for other mineral resources is considered to be low.

6. **SUMMARY OF WSA - SPECIFIC COMMENTS**

The Goshute Canyon Natural Area was inventoried separately from the comprehensive roadless review area during an early special inventory conducted in conjunction with the Intermountain Power Project. A public meeting was held in Ely, Nevada on January 14, 1980 to describe the findings of the special inventory and to invite public comment. A 30-day public comment review period was held from January 1, 1980 to January 30, 1980.

Two comments were received during the public review period. One comment noted intrusions and a lack of solitude opportunities while the other supported wilderness. A summary of other comments received during formal public review of the draft EIS and Wilderness Technical Report for the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area are found in the Nevada BLM Statewide Wilderness Report, Oct. 1991, Vol. 4.

Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area
ISA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


7169
R.63 E.
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
R.64 E.
R.26 N.
Goshute Basin
R.25 N.
Goshute Canyon WSA
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

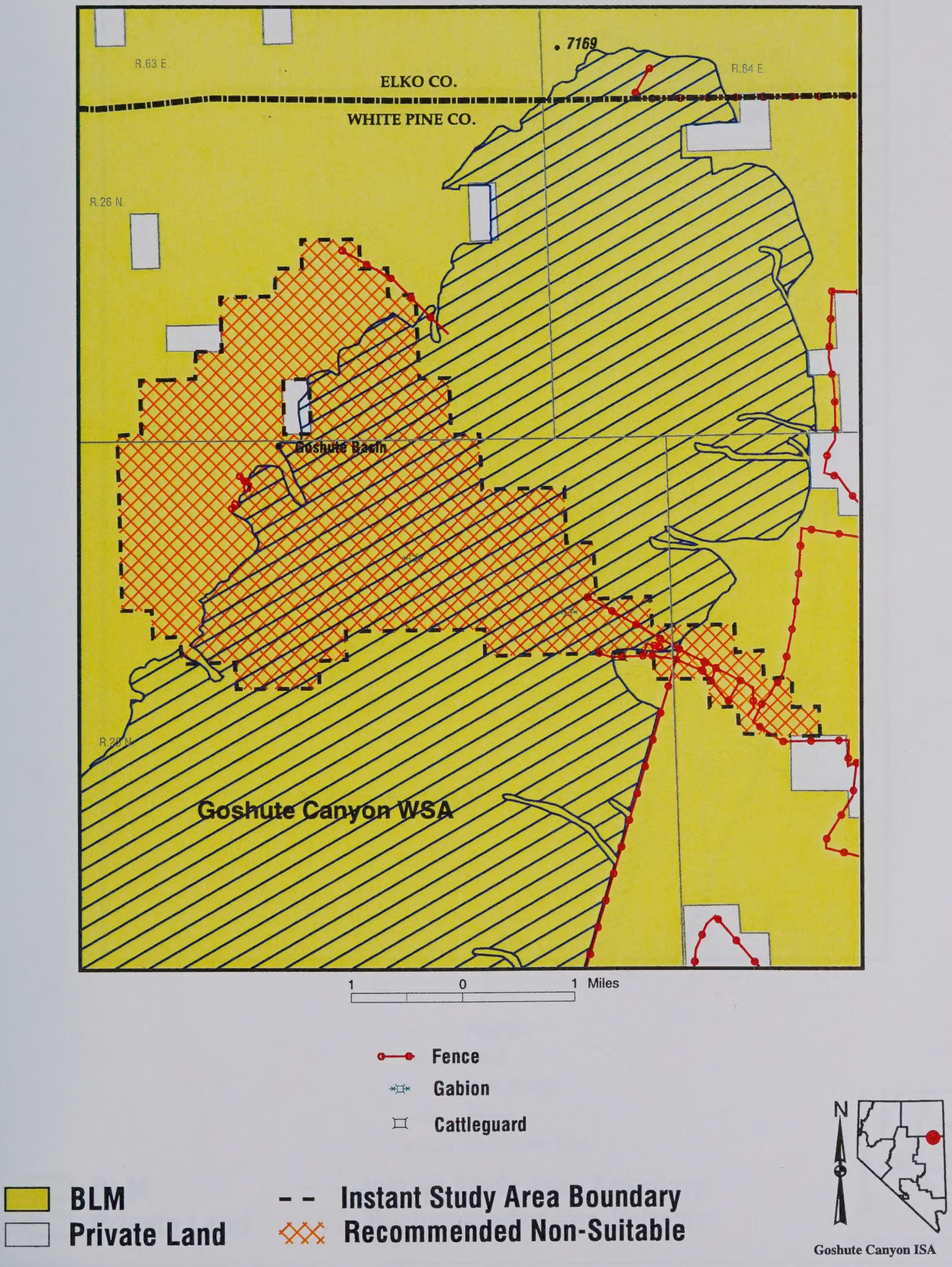
🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Goshute Canyon ISA

10/23/2000

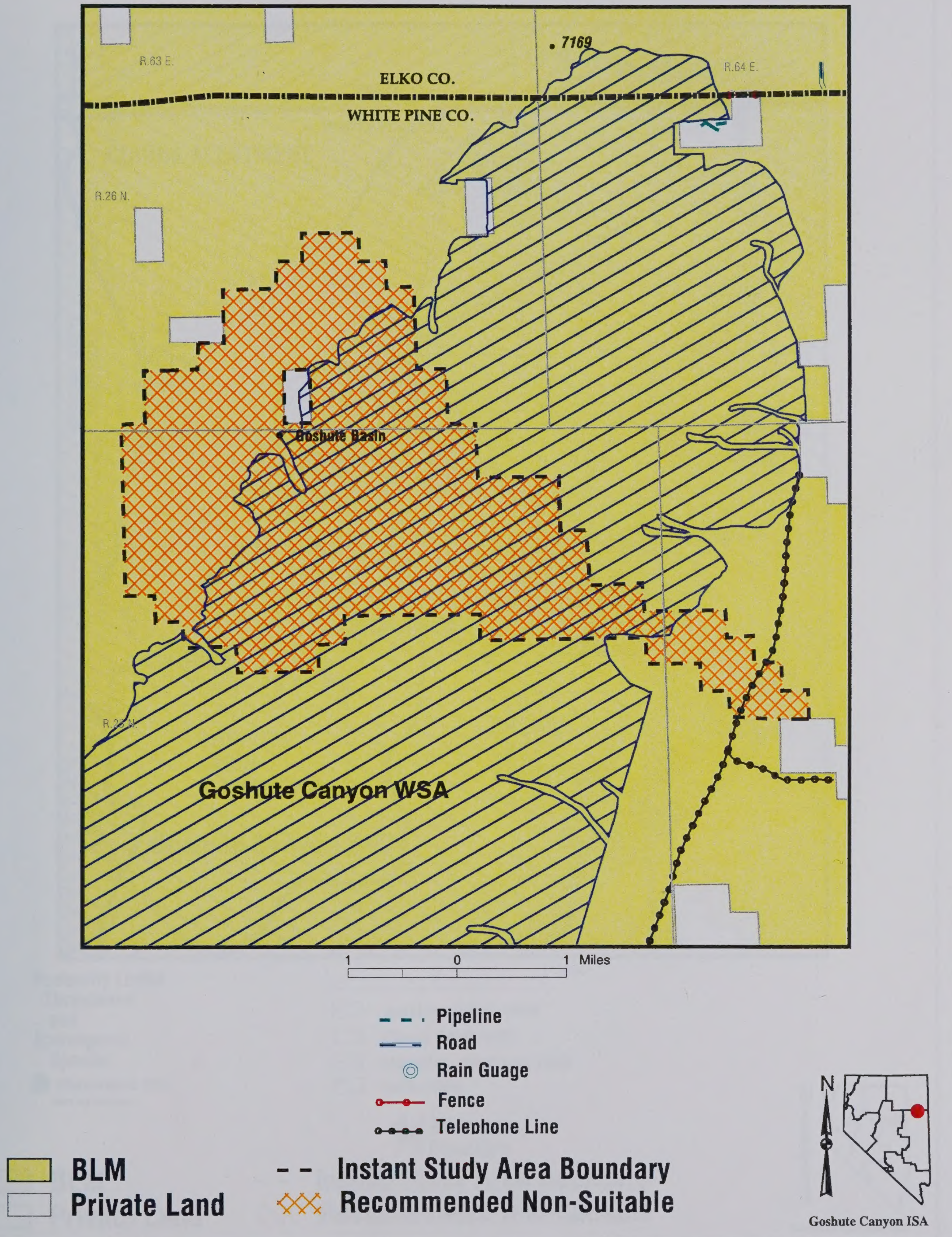
Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


7169
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
R.26 N.
R.25 N.
Goshute Basin
Goshute Canyon WSA
1 0 1 Miles
Fence
Gabion
Cattleguard
BLM
Private Land
Instant Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
Goshute Canyon ISA

Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area

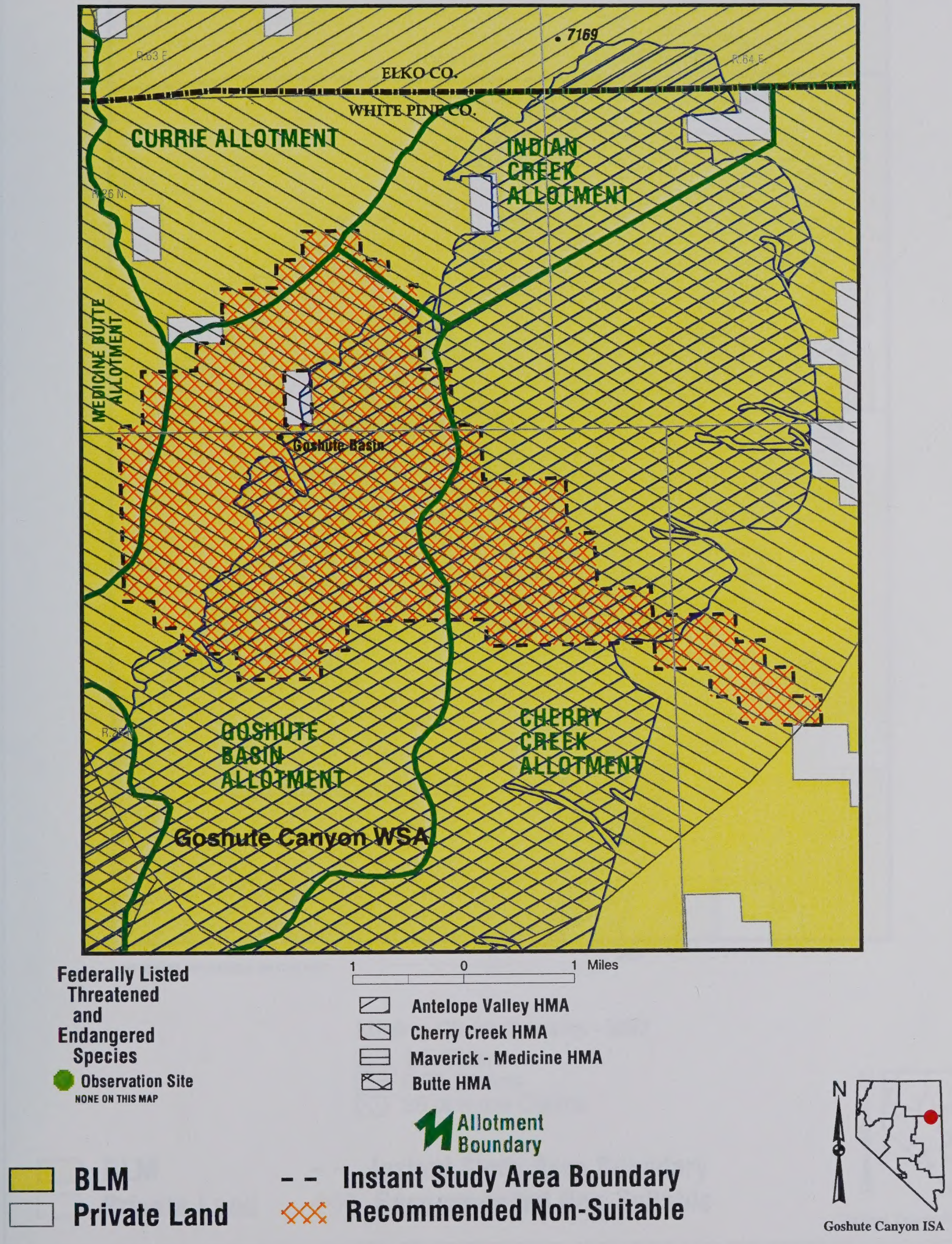
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


7169
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
R.26 N.
Goshute Basin
R.25 N.
Goshute Canyon WSA
1 0 1 Miles
Pipeline
Road
Rain Guage
Fence
Telephone Line
BLM
Private Land
Instant Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
Goshute Canyon ISA

10/23/2000

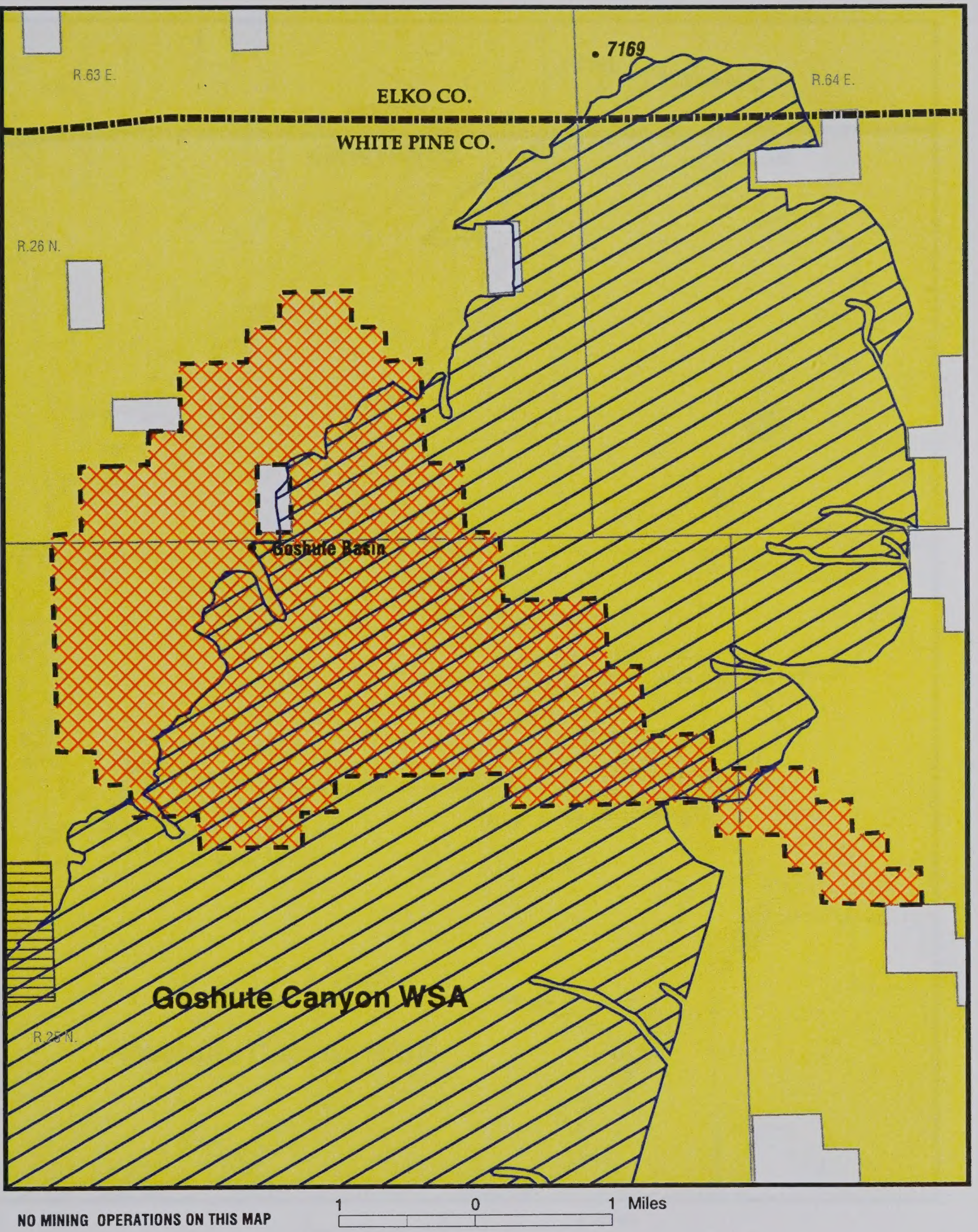
Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


7169
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
CURRIE ALLOTMENT
INDIAN CREEK ALLOTMENT
R.26 N.
MEDICINE BUTTE ALLOTMENT
Goshute Basin
R.25 N.
GOSHUTE BASIN ALLOTMENT
CHERRY CREEK ALLOTMENT
Goshute Canyon WSA
1 0 1 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Antelope Valley HMA
Cherry Creek HMA
Maverick - Medicine HMA
Butte HMA
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Instant Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
Goshute Canyon ISA

Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS

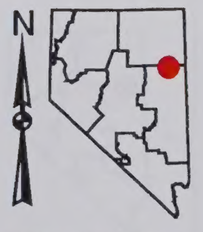

7169
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
R.26 N.
Goshute Basin
Goshute Canyon WSA
R.25 N.
1
0
1 Miles

NO MINING OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

Mining Claim Density - 3/97

- ▥ 1-5 Claims
- ▤ 6-35 Claims
- ▧ 36 or more Claims

- 🟨 **BLM**
- ☐ **Private Land**
- - - **Instant Study Area Boundary**
- ▩ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

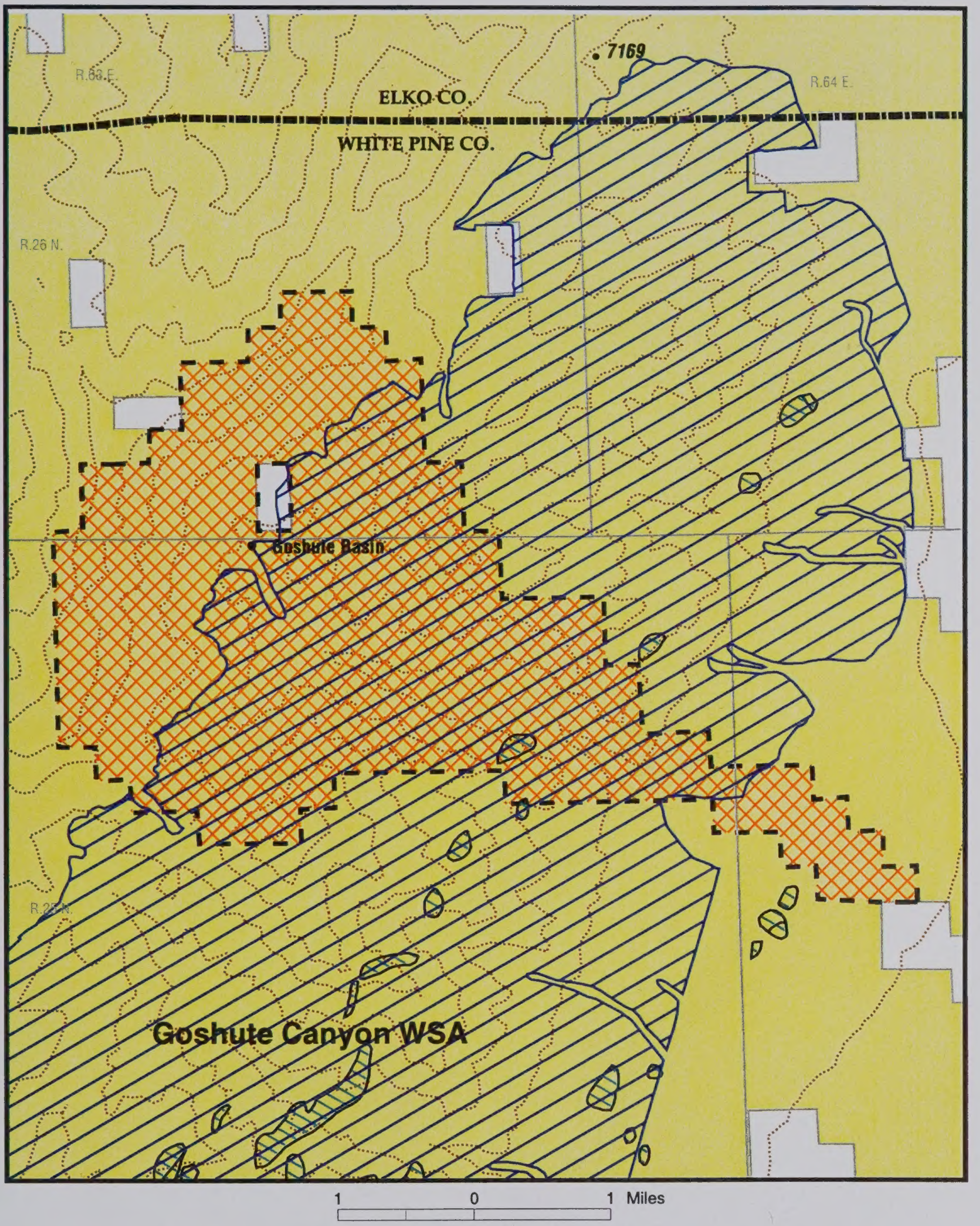


Goshute Canyon ISA

10/23/2000

Goshute Canyon Instant Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


7169
R.63 E.
R.64 E.
ELKO CO.
WHITE PINE CO.
R.26 N.
Goshute Basin
R.25 N.
Goshute Canyon WSA
1
0
1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

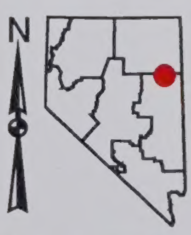
▨ **Medium - All Metals**

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**

▩ **Recommended Non-Suitable**



Goshute Canyon ISA

HEUSSER MOUNTAIN BRISTLECONE PINE INSTANT STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 480 acres

The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Instant Study Area is located in the Egan Range just east of Smith Valley, and approximately 5 miles northwest of the town of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County. It consists of approximately 480 acres of public land. The Heusser Mountain Research Natural Area was designated in 1965 to protect the "unique botanical... characteristics of irreplaceable scientific and recreational values." The Natural Area was intensively inventoried and evaluated in conjunction with the surrounding 32,940 acre roadless review area NV-040-048A. The entire review unit was found to lack wilderness character following intensive inventory completed in December, 1979.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE -

0 acres recommended for wilderness
480 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area and its contiguous roadless acreage were determined to lack the wilderness characteristic of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The study area was recommended for release from further wilderness consideration, and the roadless review area was not designated as a wilderness study area.

The long and short term effects of not designating Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area as wilderness would be that all uses which previously were compatible with natural area management would continue to be permitted. The area is expected to remain in a natural condition due to the precipitous terrain that would prevent most surface disturbing activities.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: During the intensive inventory, approximately 24,600 acres, including the Natural Area and surrounding roadless area, was found to be completely natural with "no known imprints of man's work." These lands are characterized by steep mountainous terrain dominated by bristlecone pine and surrounded by pinyon pine and juniper.

B. Solitude: Even when considered with the surrounding area determined to be natural, the inventory unit was considered not to have outstanding opportunities for solitude due to its long, narrow configuration. When the surrounding roadless, natural lands were dropped from further consideration as wilderness, the remaining 480 were determined to lack sufficient size to provide opportunity for solitude.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The intensive inventory unit was determined to have "good, but not outstanding, diversity of recreation opportunities..." The quality of recreation opportunities was said to be further diminished by the presence of heavy smog from a nearby smelter, which has since been destroyed.

D. Special Features: The area contains a moderate cover of bristlecone pine which are considered one of the longest living life forms on earth, but are not particularly unusual or rare.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The area is not manageable as wilderness due to its small size and lack of natural boundaries.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

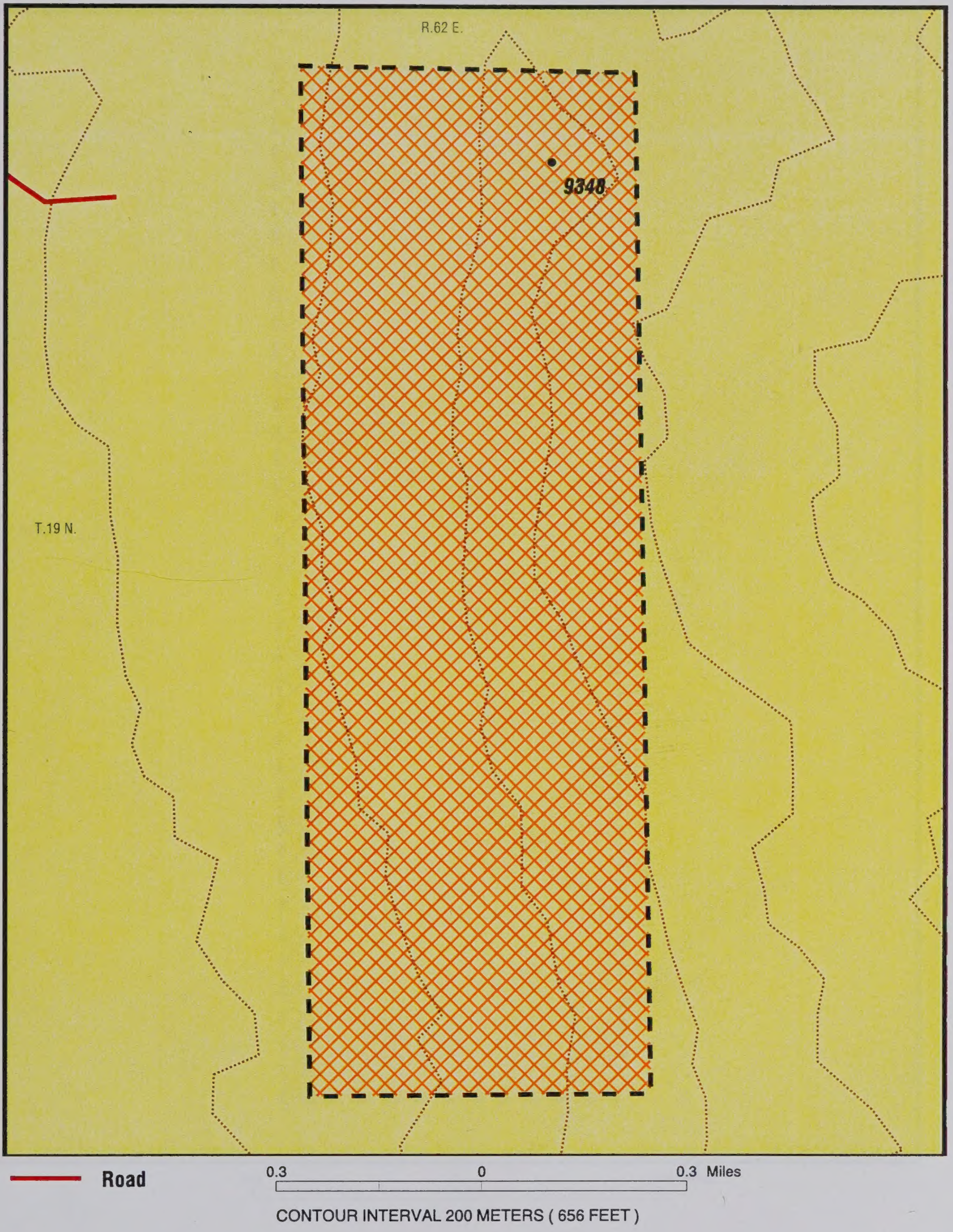
A minerals report from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey was not prepared for this study area.

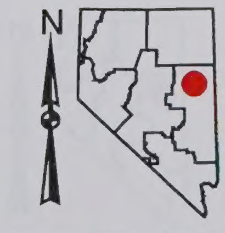
6. SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Heusser Mountain Bristlecone Pine Natural Area was inventoried along with the roadless review area in which it is located (NV-040-048A) during an intensive inventory conducted in1979. Most specific comments on this unit mentioned natural conditions and outstanding opportunities. Some cited intrusions and lack of solitude. One stated the unit lacks wilderness criteria, and several noted supplemental values and two listed other resource values. 2,326 general comments stated that the unit meets the wilderness criteria.

Heusser Mountain Instant Study Area

ISA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.62 E.
T.19 N.
9348
Road
0.3
0
0.3 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)



Heusser Mountain ISA

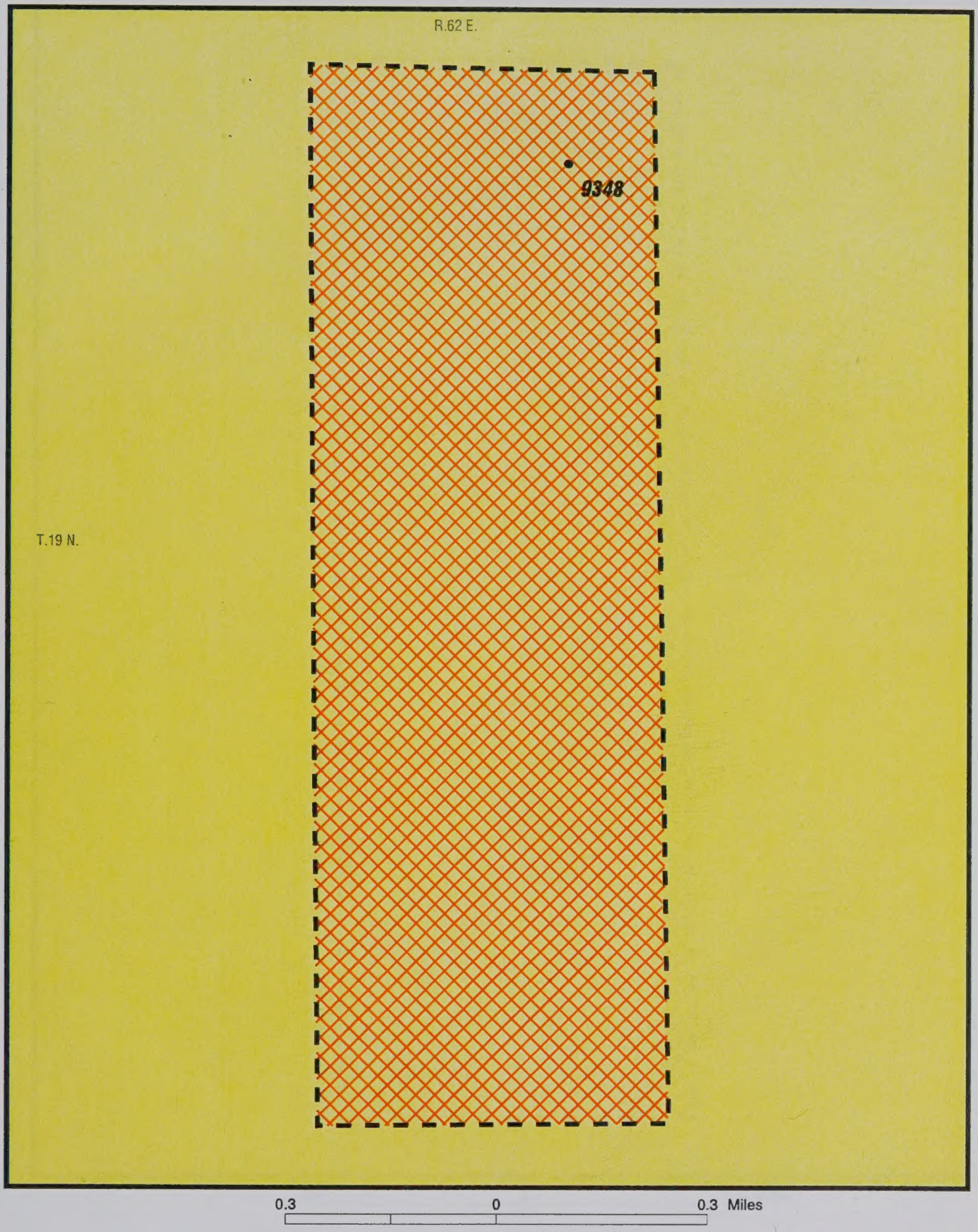
🟨 **BLM**

- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

3/13/00

Heusser Mountain Instant Study Area
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R.62 E.
T.19 N.
9348
0.3
0
0.3 Miles

NO DEVELOPMENTS OR DISTURBANCES ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**

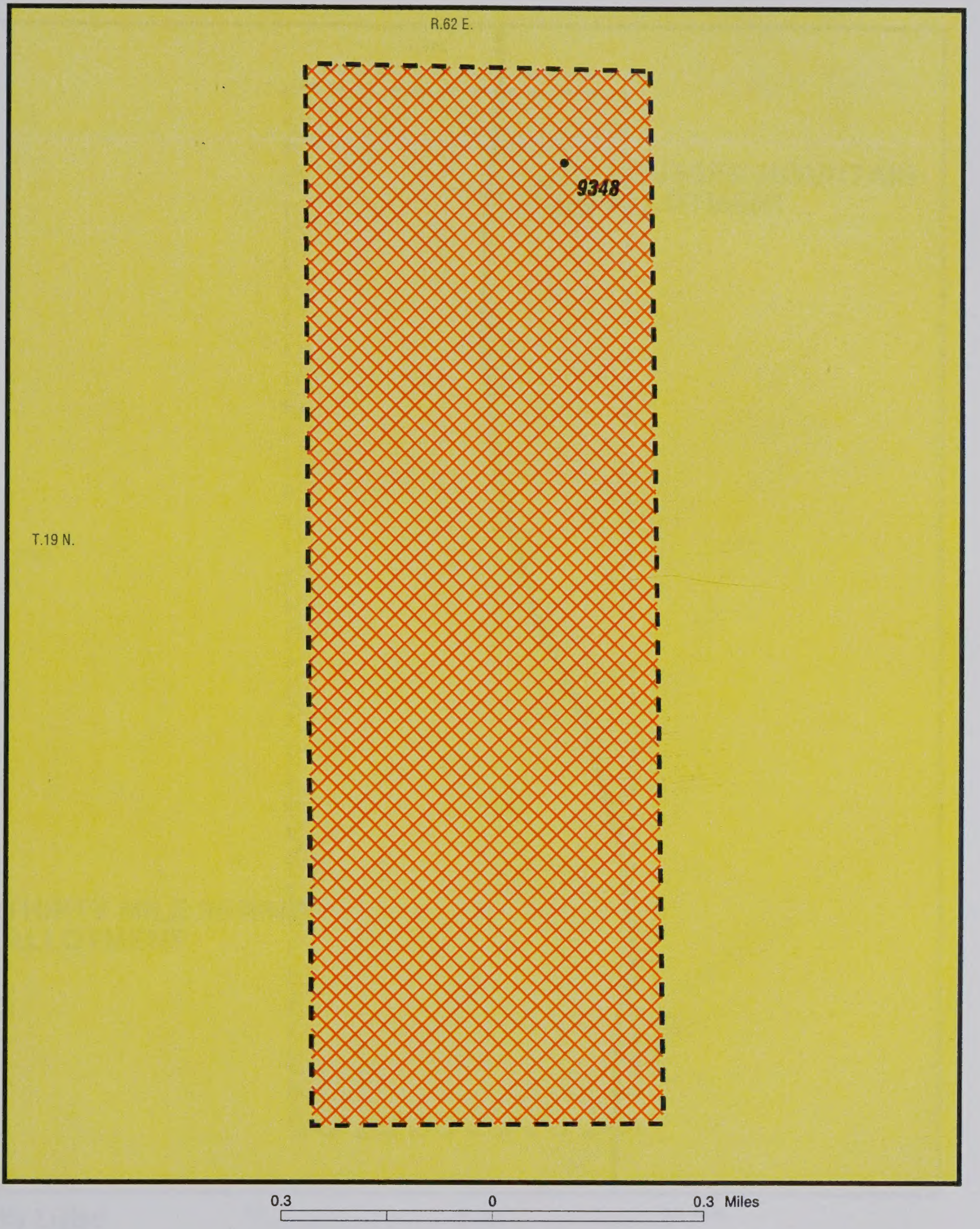
- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Heusser Mountain ISA

Heusser Mountain Instant Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.62 E.
T.19 N.
9348
0.3
0
0.3 Miles

NO RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**

- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**

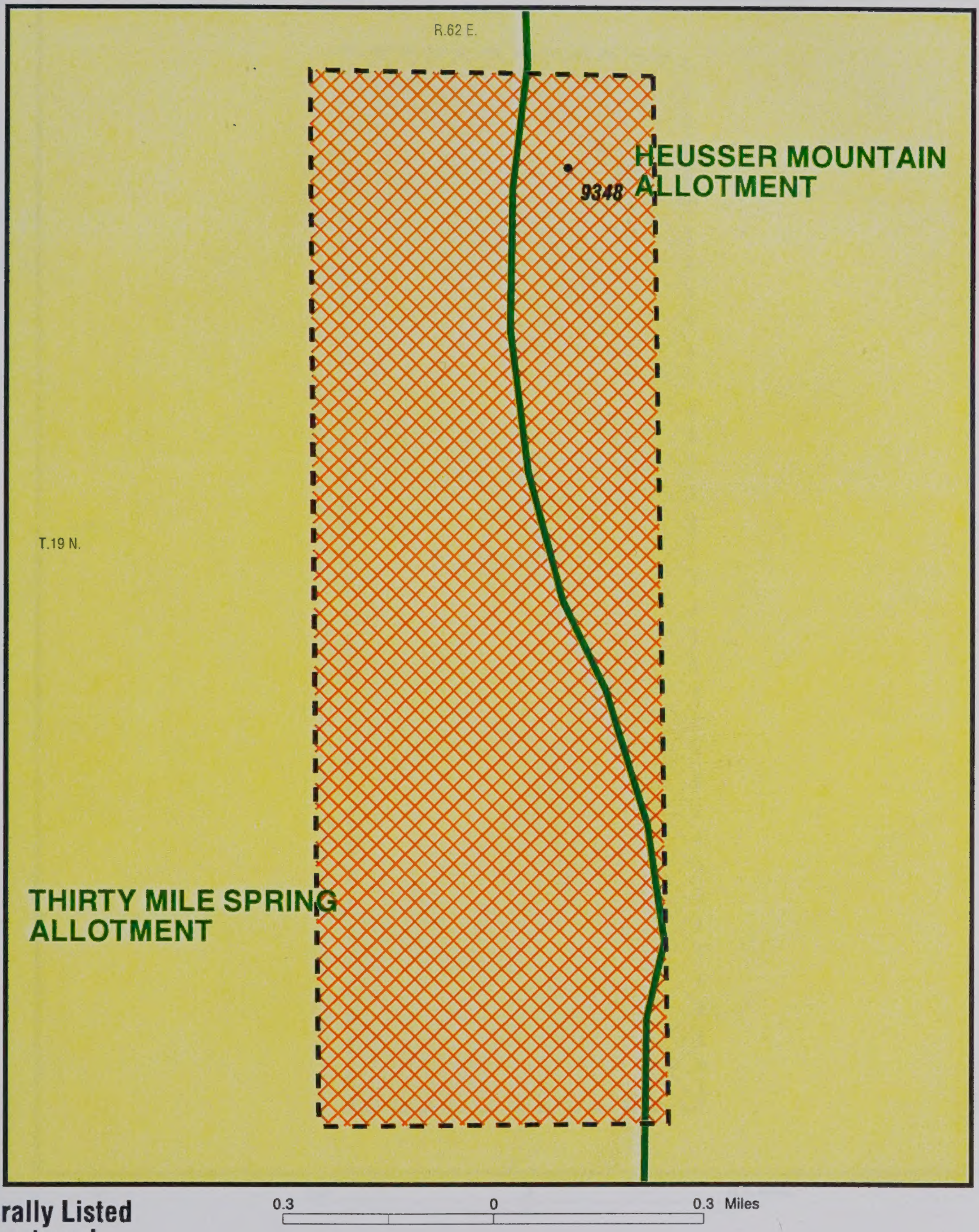
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Heusser Mountain ISA

3/13/00

Heusser Mountain Instant Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.62 E.
T.19 N.
HEUSSER MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT
9348
THIRTY MILE SPRING ALLOTMENT
0.3
0
0.3 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● **Observation Site**
NONE ON THIS MAP

NO HMA ON THIS MAP

Allotment Boundary

- - Instant Study Area Boundary

▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

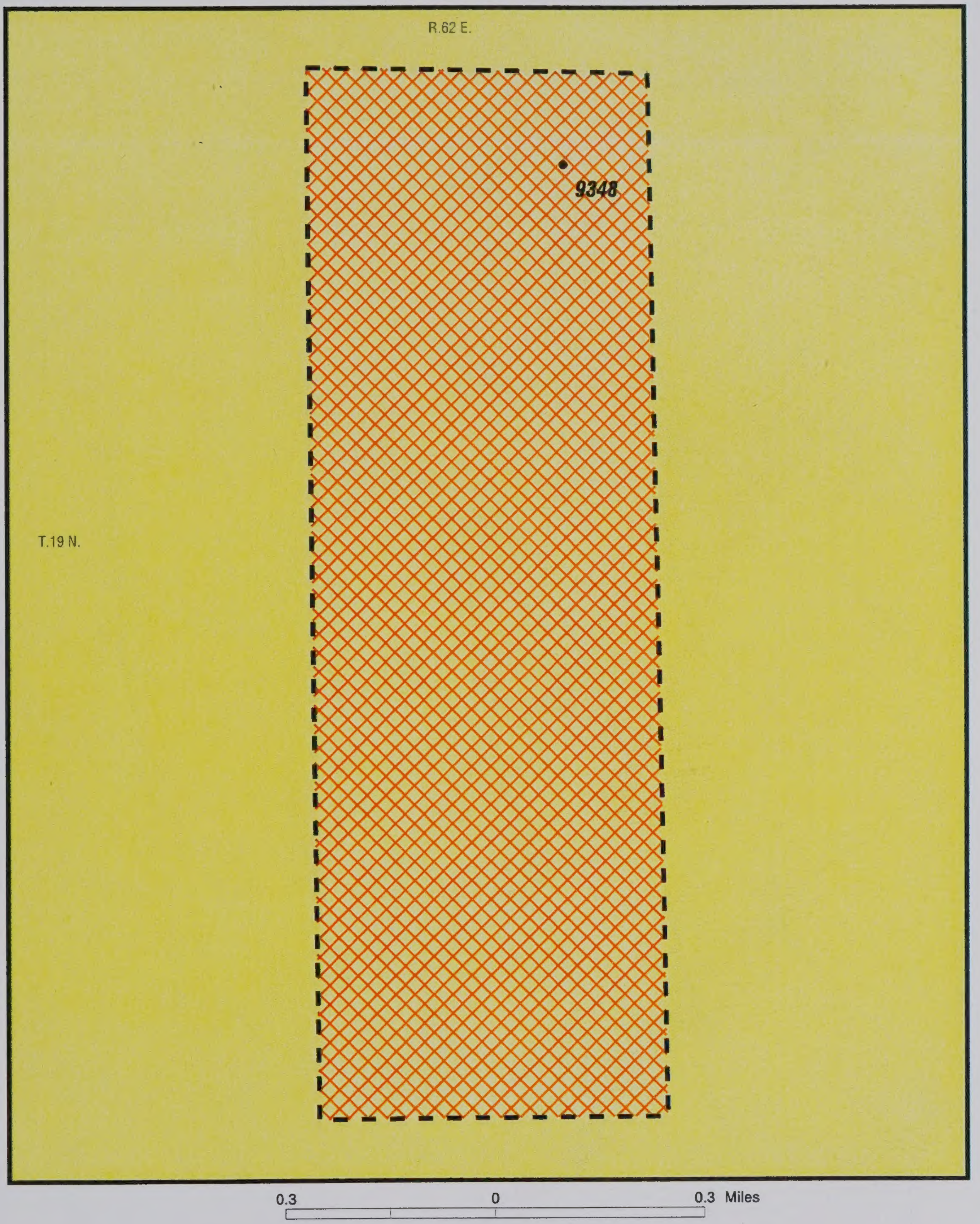
🟨 **BLM**

Heusser Mountain ISA

3/13/00

Heusser Mountain Instant Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R.62 E.
9348
T.19 N.
0.3
0
0.3 Miles

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

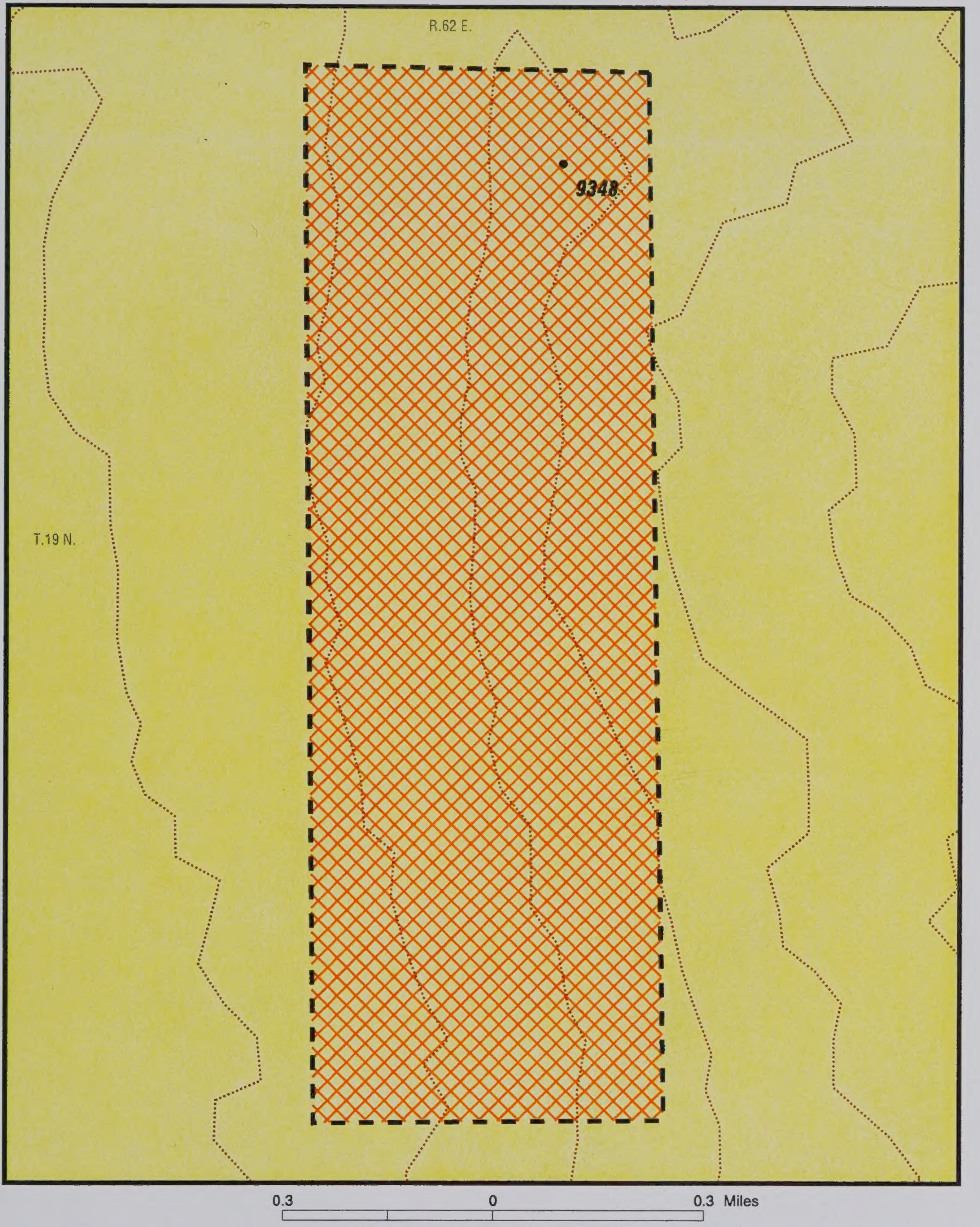
Heusser Mountain ISA

- - Instant Study Area Boundary

▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

🟨 BLM

Heusser Mountain Instant Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL


R.62 E.
T.19 N.
9348
0.3
0
0.3 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

Heusser Mountain ISA

🟨 **BLM**

- - Instant Study Area Boundary

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

SWAMP CEDAR INSTANT STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 3,200 acres

The Swamp Cedar Natural Area is located in Spring Valley approximately 23 air miles east of the town of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County, and contains 3,200 acres of public land. The Natural Area was designated in 1970 to protect the unusual ecosystem of the area, a low marshy zone which supports a large stand of Rocky Mountain Juniper (Juniperus scopulorum). The Natural Area was inventoried and evaluated in conjunction with the surrounding 5,820 acre roadless review area NV-040-089. The 9,020 acre review unit was found to lack wilderness character during an accelerated wilderness inventory conducted for the Intermountain Power Project.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 0 acres recommended for wilderness
3,200 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The Swamp Cedar Natural Area and its contiguous roadless acreage were determined to lack the wilderness characteristic of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The study area was recommended for release from further wilderness consideration, and the roadless review area was not designated as a wilderness study area.

The long and short term effects of not designating Swamp Cedar Natural Area as wilderness would be that all uses which previously were compatible with natural area management would continue to be permitted. The area is expected to remain in a natural condition due to the presence of marshy terrain that would prevent most surface disturbing activities.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness**: Very little alteration of the natural character of the landscape has occurred within the study area and roadless review area. Lands surrounding these areas have been substantially intruded upon by ranching and mining activities and by powerline construction. The marshy conditions found within the study area have contributed to the natural appearance of the roadless lands and the Natural Area. These areas generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable.

B. **Solitude**: There is fairly good vegetative screening provided by the small swamp cedar trees in the Natural Area which provides some opportunity for solitude. The flat topography and small size of the study area limit the ability of a visitor to find opportunities for solitude. Opportunities for solitude in the study area are considered to be less than outstanding.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation**: Nature study, hiking, camping and photography are all possible within the study area although these activities are limited by marshy conditions, but neither the diversity nor quality of these activities are considered outstanding.

D. **Special Features**: The marshy ecosystem and associated stand of Rocky Mountain Juniper is quite unusual, and is found only at four locations in the world. There is evidence that a significant historical site, the battlefield of the Goshute War of 1863, is located within the study area.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The area is not manageable as wilderness due to its small size, lack of natural boundaries and limited wilderness character.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

A minerals report from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey was not prepared for this study area. The potential for occurrence of oil and gas resources within the study area is considered to be high. The potential for other mineral resources is considered to be low or no potential for occurrence.

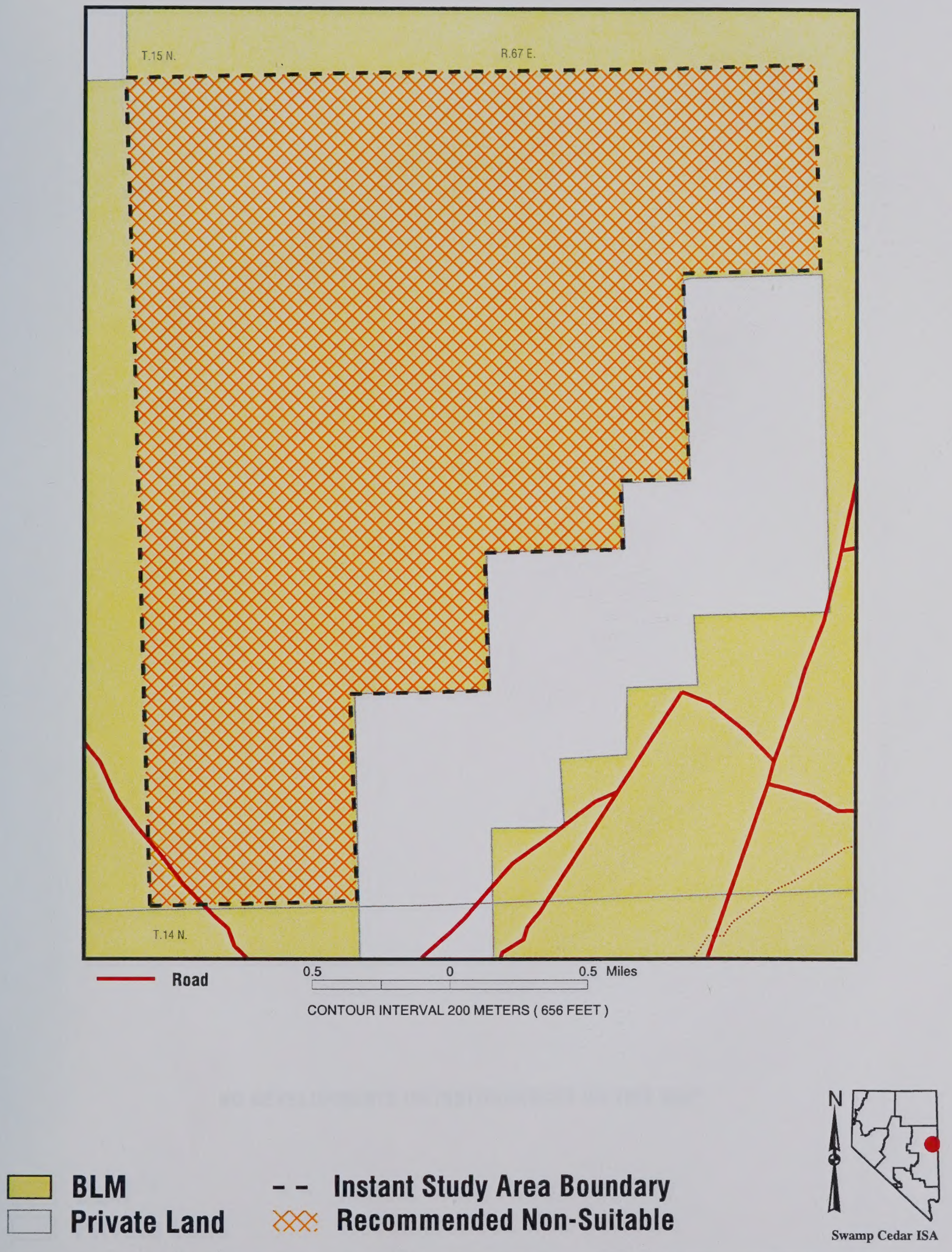
6. SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Swamp Cedar Natural Area was inventoried along with the roadless review area in which it is located (NV-040-089) during an early special inventory conducted in conjunction with the Intermountain Power Project. A public meeting to describe the findings of the special inventory and to invite public comment was held in Ely, Nevada on November 14, 1978. A 90-day public review period was held from November 19, 1978 to February 16, 1979. Meetings were also held in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada during the public comment period.

No public comment was received during the public review period regarding the Swamp Cedar Natural Area or roadless area NV-040-089. One letter supporting wilderness designation for the Swamp Cedar area was received after the comment period had ended.

10/23/2000

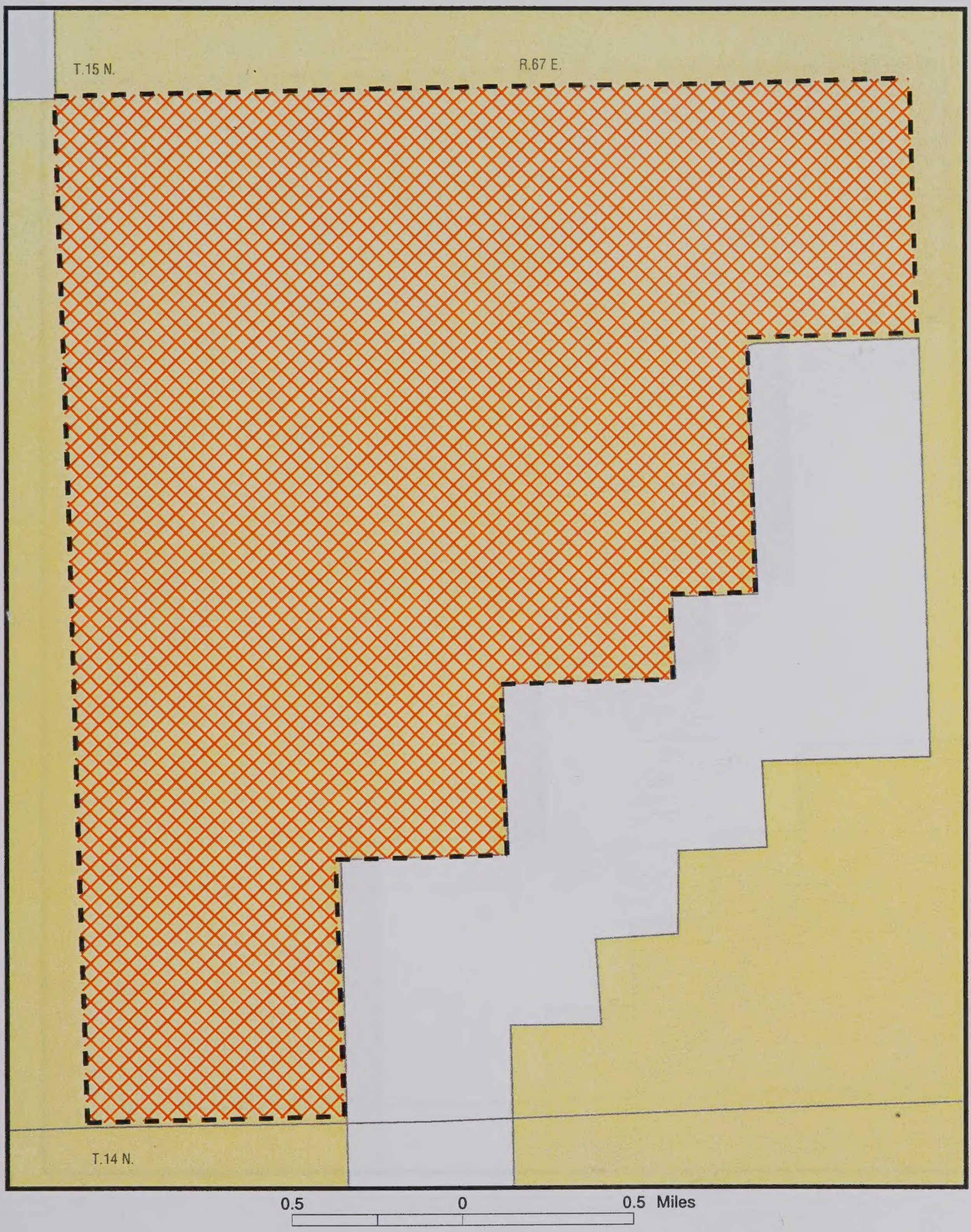
Swamp Cedar Instant Study Area
ISA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


T.15 N.
R.67 E.
T.14 N.
Road
0.5
0
0.5 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
BLM
Private Land
Instant Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
Swamp Cedar ISA

10/23/2000

Swamp Cedar Instant Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


T.15 N.
R.67 E.
T.14 N.
0.5
0
0.5 Miles

NO DEVELOPMENTS OR DISTURBANCES ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

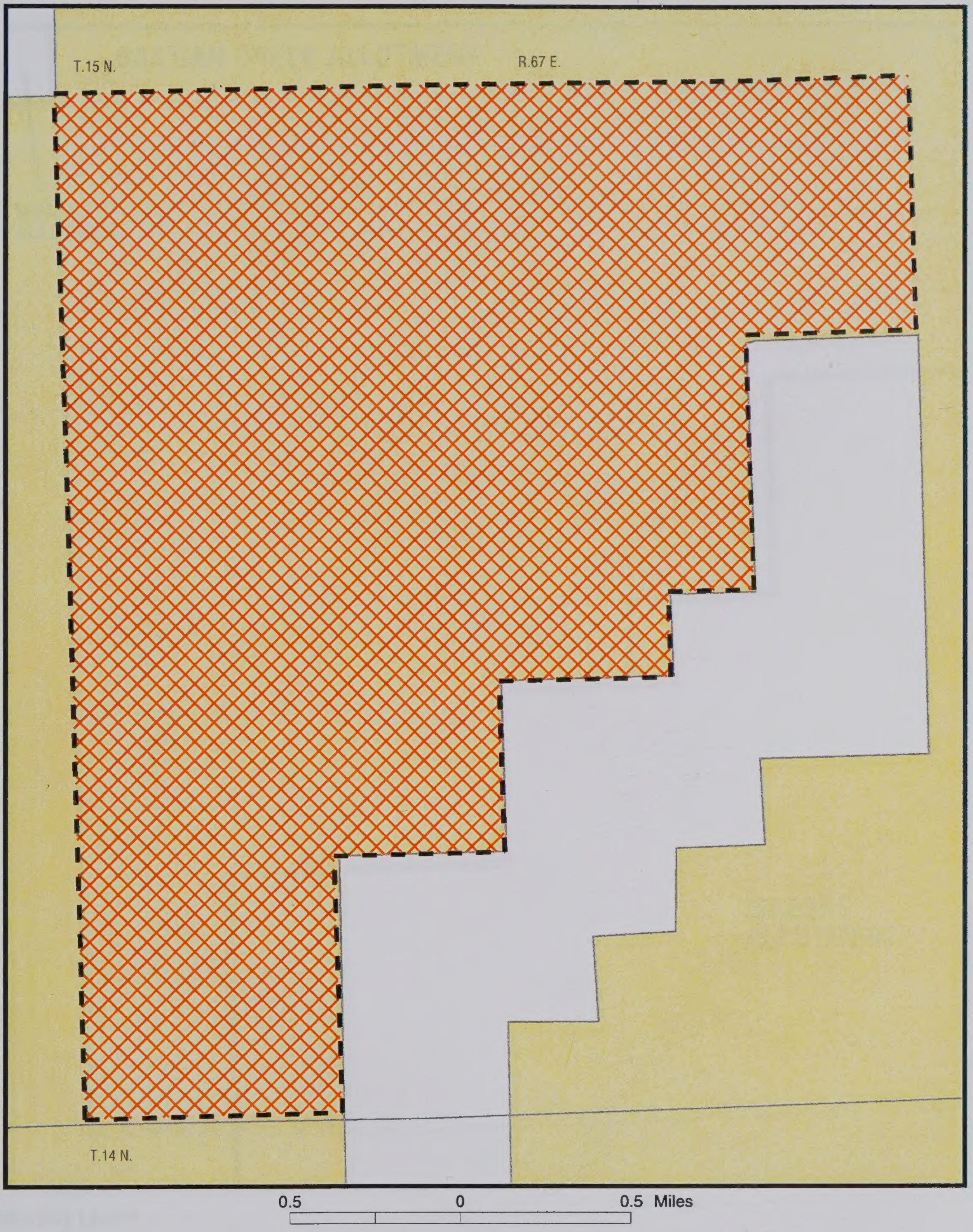
- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Swamp Cedar ISA

Swamp Cedar Instant Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


T.15 N.
R.67 E.
T.14 N.
0.5
0
0.5 Miles

NO RIGHTS-OF-WAY ON THIS MAP

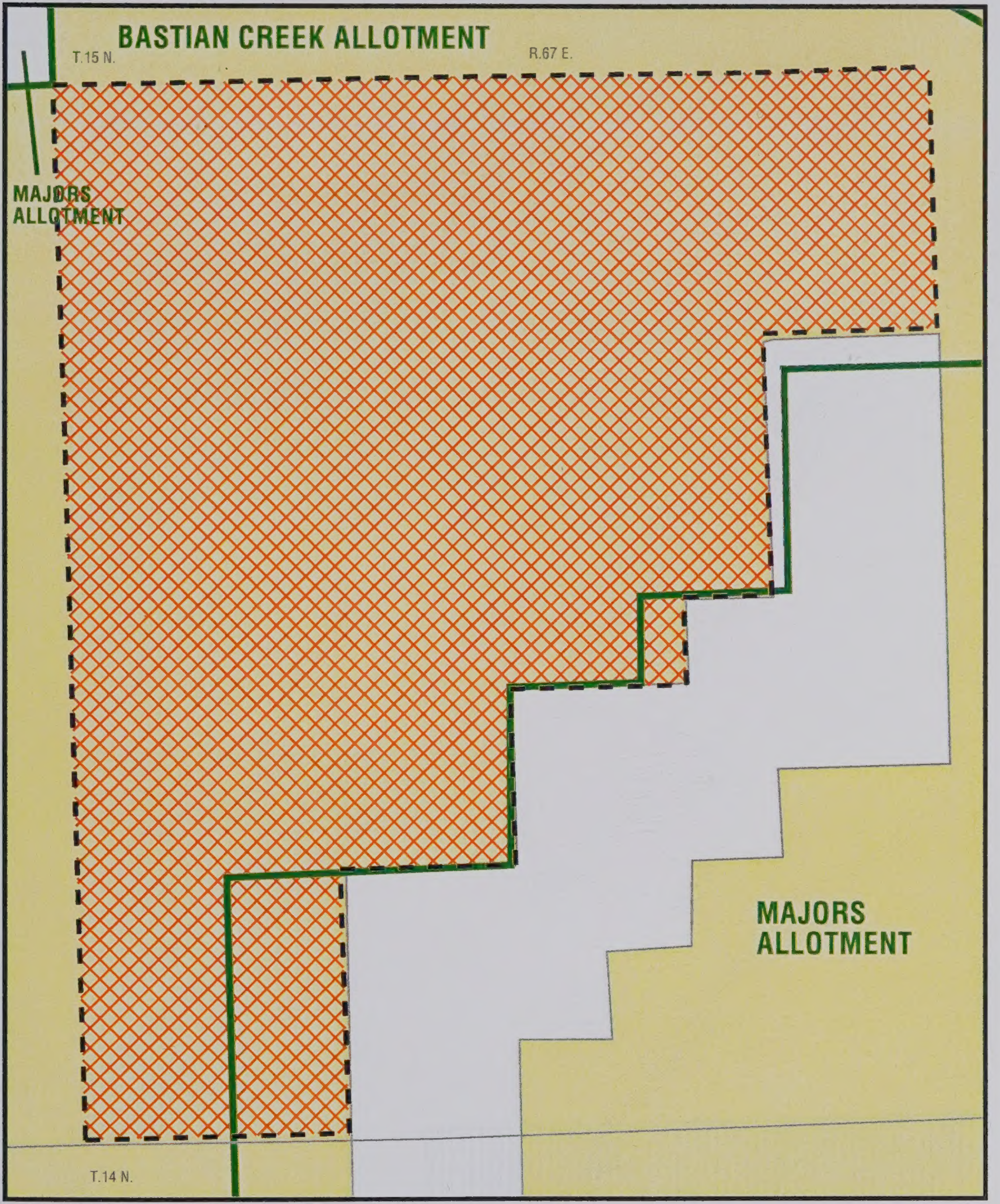
🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Swamp Cedar ISA

10/23/00

Swamp Cedar Instant Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


BASTIAN CREEK ALLOTMENT
T.15 N.
R.67 E.
MAJORS ALLOTMENT
MAJORS ALLOTMENT
T.14 N.

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP

NO HMA ON THIS MAP

Allotment Boundary

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**

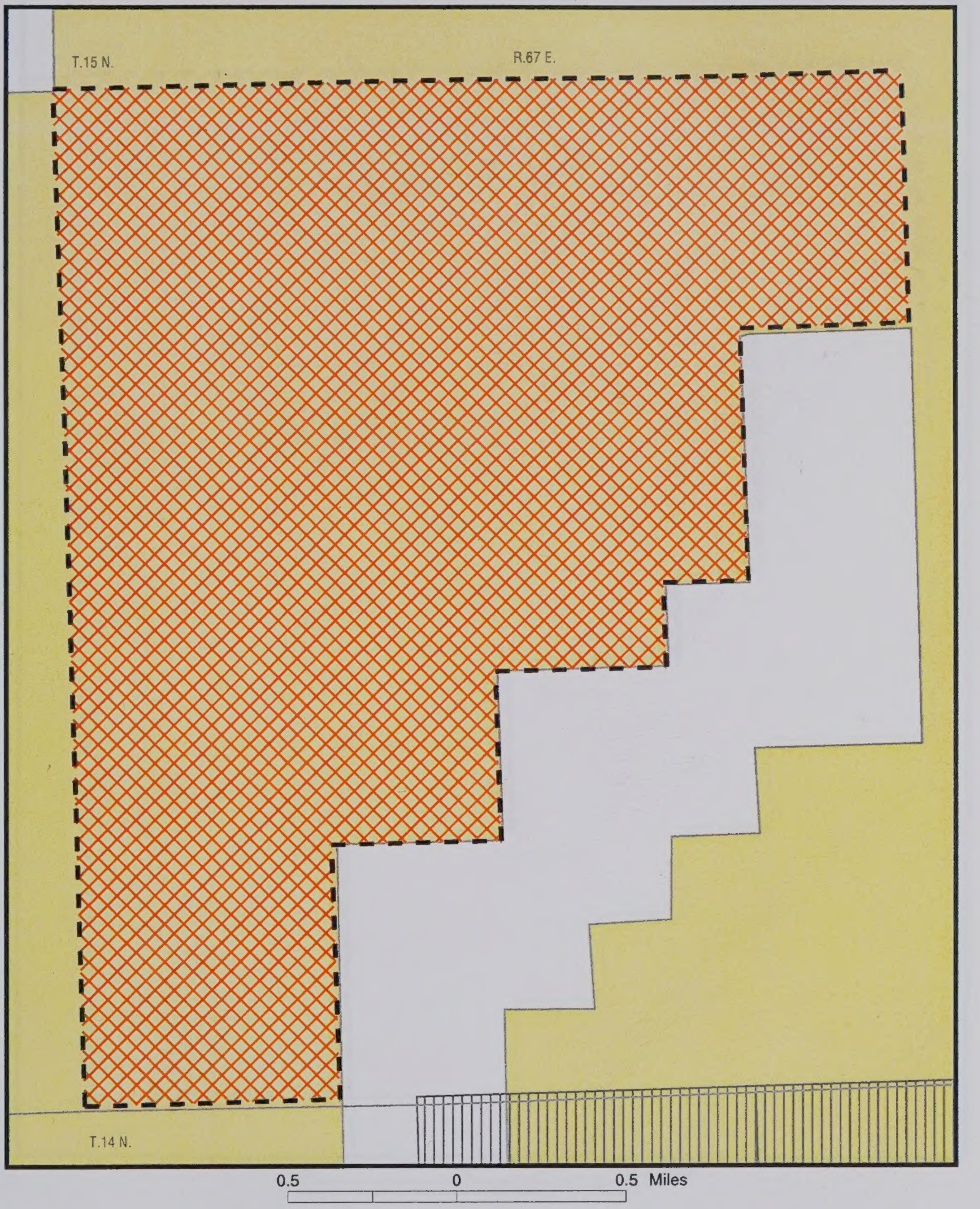
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Swamp Cedar ISA

10/23/00

Swamp Cedar Instant Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS



Mining Claim Density - 3/97

- ▥ 1-5 Claims
- ▤ 6-35 Claims
- ▧ 36 or more Claims

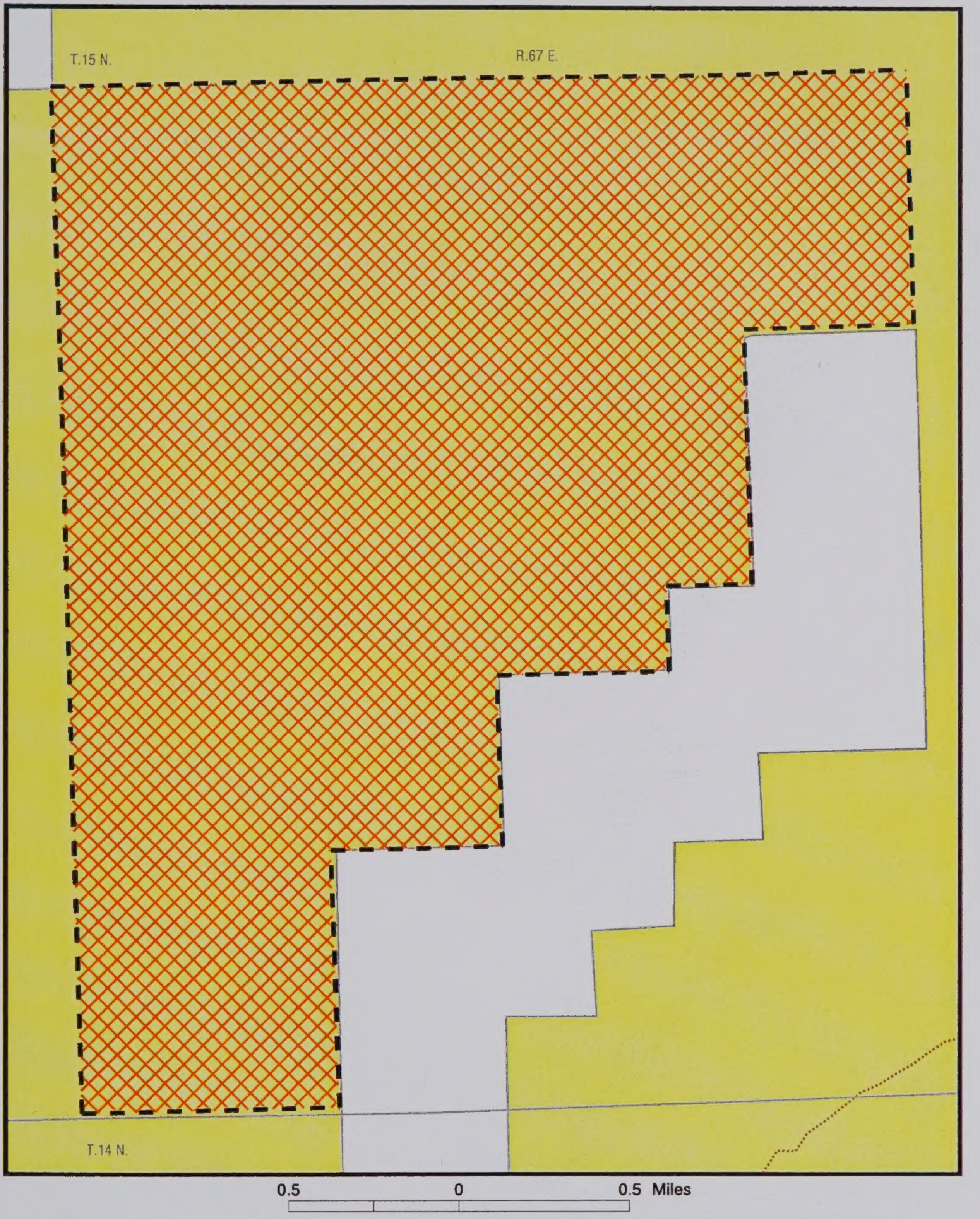
NO MINING OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

- 🟨 **BLM**
- ☐ **Private Land**
- – – **Instant Study Area Boundary**
- ✕✕✕ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Swamp Cedar ISA

Swamp Cedar Instant Study Area

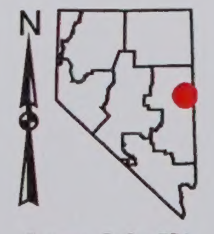
MINERAL POTENTIAL


T.15 N.
R.67 E.
T.14 N.
0.5
0
0.5 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**
□ **Private Land**
- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**



Swamp Cedar ISA

SHOSHONE PYGMY SAGE INSTANT STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 160 acres

The Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area is located northwest of Mount Wheeler within Spring Valley in White Pine County, NV. It consists of approximately 160 acres of public land. The Shoshone Pygmy Sage Research Natural Area was designated in 1965 to assist in the preservation of an example of the pygmy sage ecosystem for comparison with those ecosystems influenced by man, to provide an educational and research area, and provide a gene pool and preserve for an unusual (but not threatened or endangered) species. The Natural Area was intensively inventoried and evaluated in conjunction with the surrounding 3,840 acre roadless review area in conjunction with the Intermountain Power Project accelerated wilderness inventory. The entire review unit was found to lack wilderness character following intensive inventory completed in March, 1979.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE -

0 acres recommended for wilderness
160 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area and its contiguous roadless acreage were determined to lack the size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation considered to define wilderness character. The study area was recommended for release from further wilderness consideration, and the roadless review area was not designated as a wilderness study area.

The long and short term effects of not designating Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area as wilderness would be that all uses which previously were compatible with natural area management would continue to be permitted.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: During the intensive inventory, the area was determined to be generally unnatural, containing fencelines, a well and a powerline.

B. Solitude: The small size of the area combined with its lack of substantial vegetation and topographic diversity combine to minimize opportunities for solitude.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Hiking, dry camping, photography, and nature study are all physically possible in the area, but neither the quantity nor quality of these opportunities can be considered outstanding.

D. Special Features: Pygmy sage (Artemesia pygmia) is an unusual species which grows in the area, however, it is not listed as threatened or endangered.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The area is not manageable as wilderness due to its small size. Even including the surrounding roadless review area, it would contain only 4,000 acres. The lack of any substantial vegetation combined with the flat topography of the area would make management for wilderness nearly impossible.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

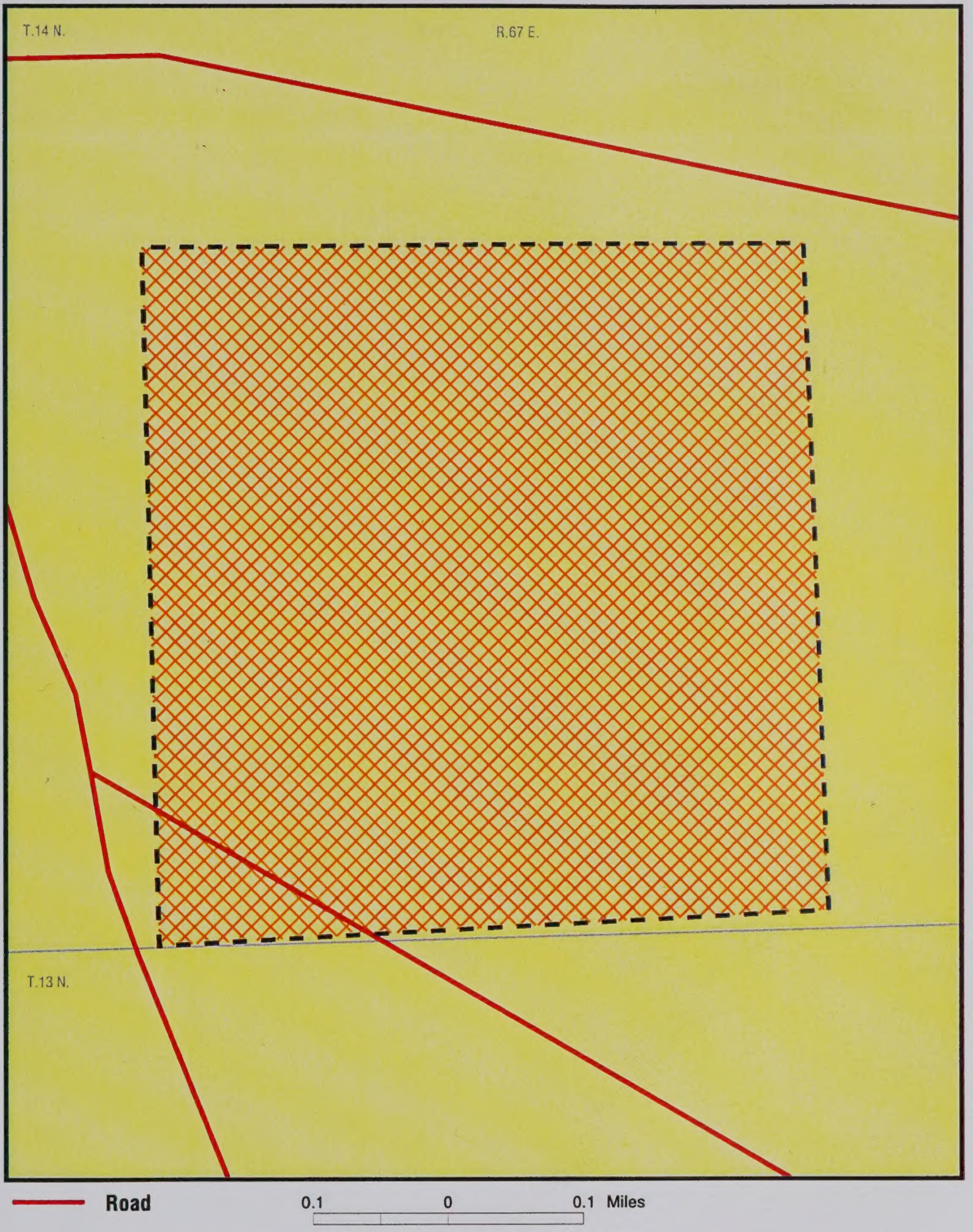
A minerals report from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey was not prepared for this study area.

6. SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

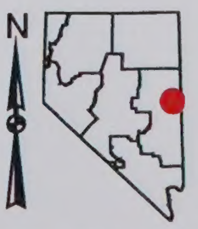
The Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area was inventoried along with the roadless review area in which it is located during an accelerated inventory conducted in 1979. There was no public comment made on the Pygmy Sage Natural Area during the formal public comment period. One letter was received after the close of the comment period which supported wilderness classification for the area.

10/23/00

Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area
ISA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


T.14 N.
R.67 E.
T.13 N.
Road
0.1
0
0.1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)



Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA

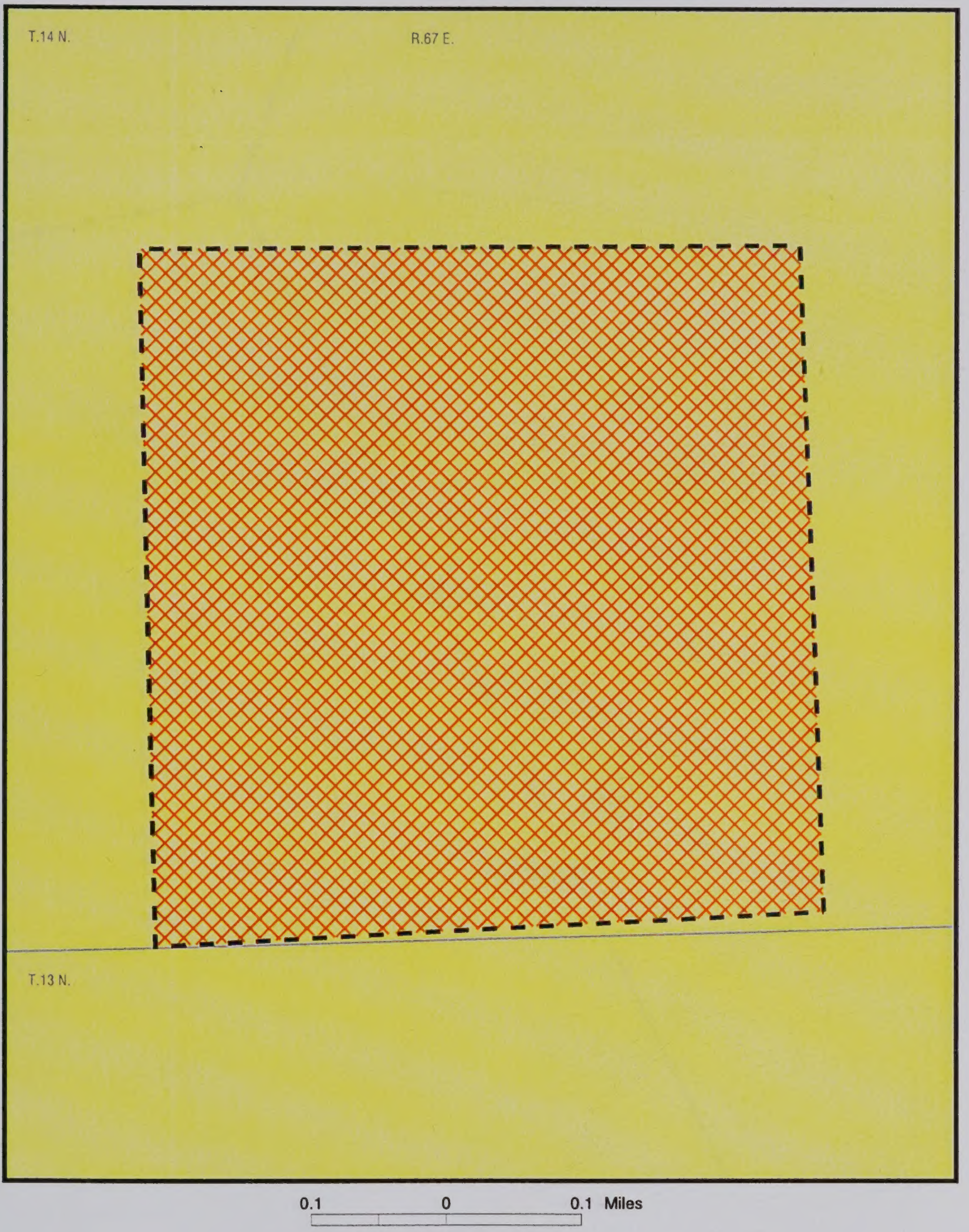
– – Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

🟨 BLM

10/23/2000

Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES

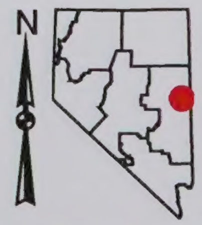

T.14 N.
R.67 E.
T.13 N.
0.1
0
0.1 Miles

NO DEVELOPMENTS OR DISTURBANCES ON THIS MAP

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

🟨 **BLM**

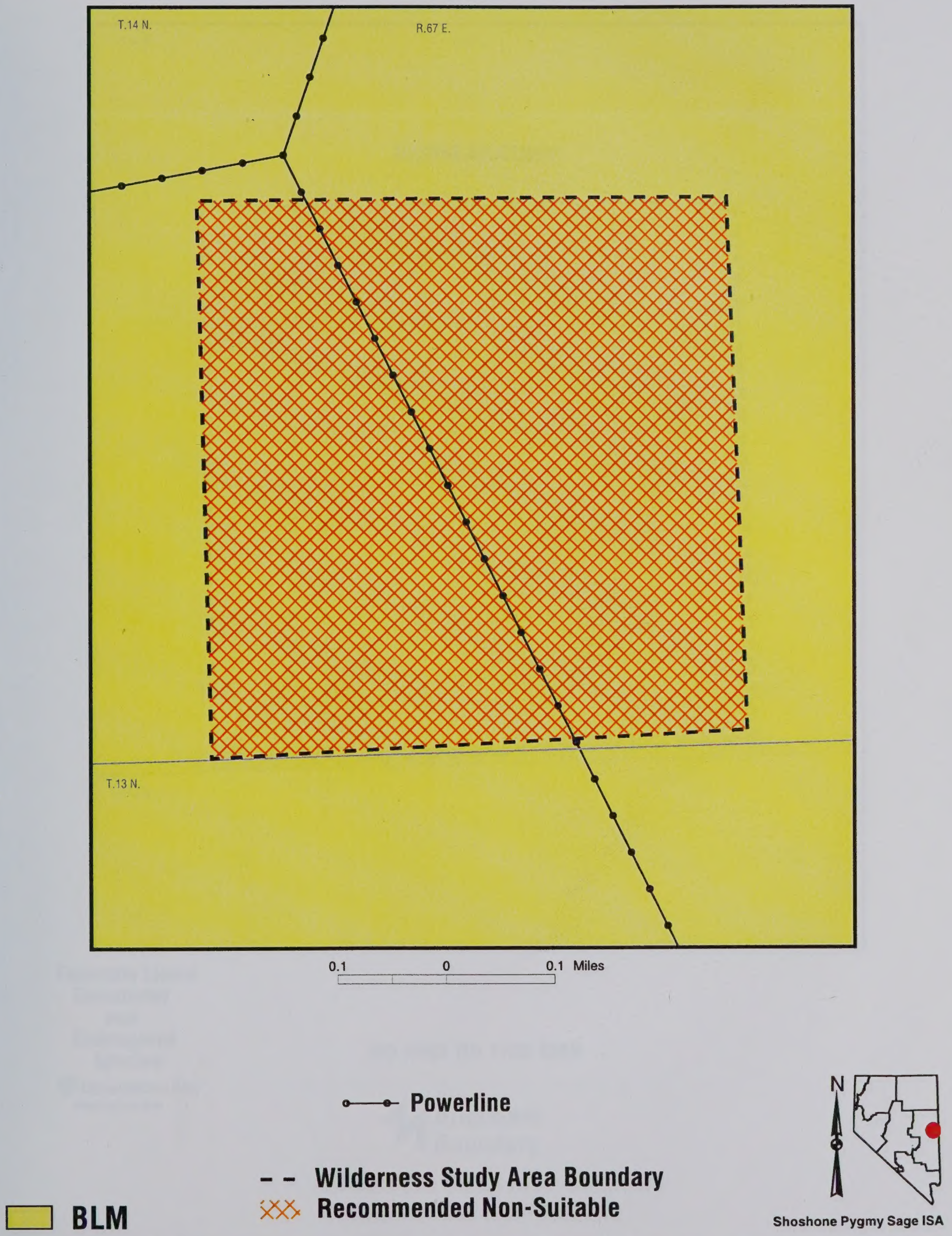


Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA

10/23/2000

Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area

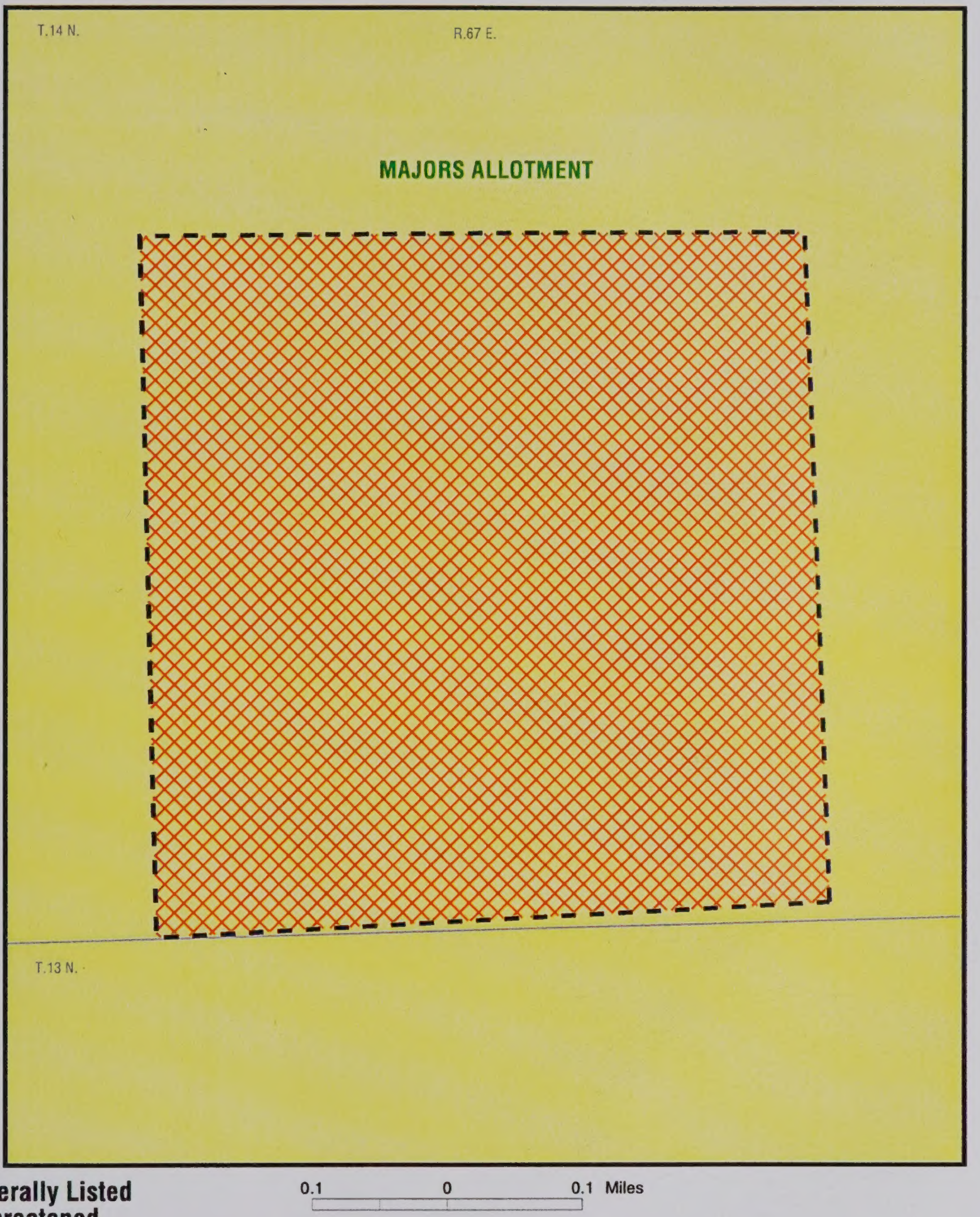
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


T.14 N.
R.67 E.
T.13 N.
0.1
0
0.1 Miles
Powerline
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
BLM
N
Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA

10/23/2000

Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES



T.14 N.
R.67 E.
MAJORS ALLOTMENT
T.13 N.
0.1
0
0.1 Miles

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● **Observation Site**
NONE ON THIS MAP

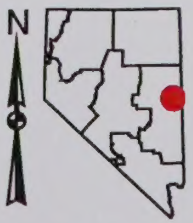
NO HMA ON THIS MAP

Allotment Boundary

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

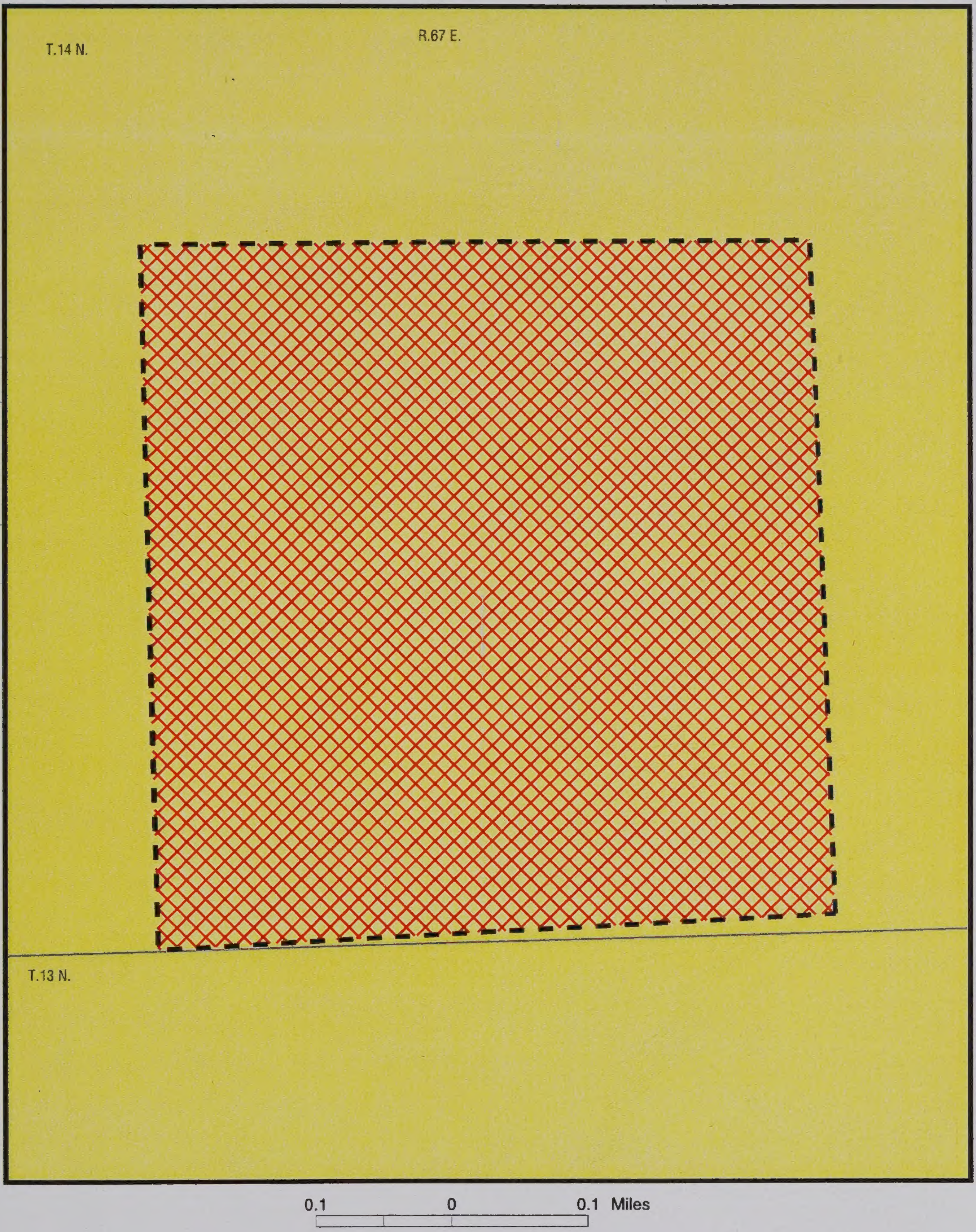
🟨 **BLM**



Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA

Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


T.14 N.
R.67 E.
T.13 N.
0.1
0
0.1 Miles

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

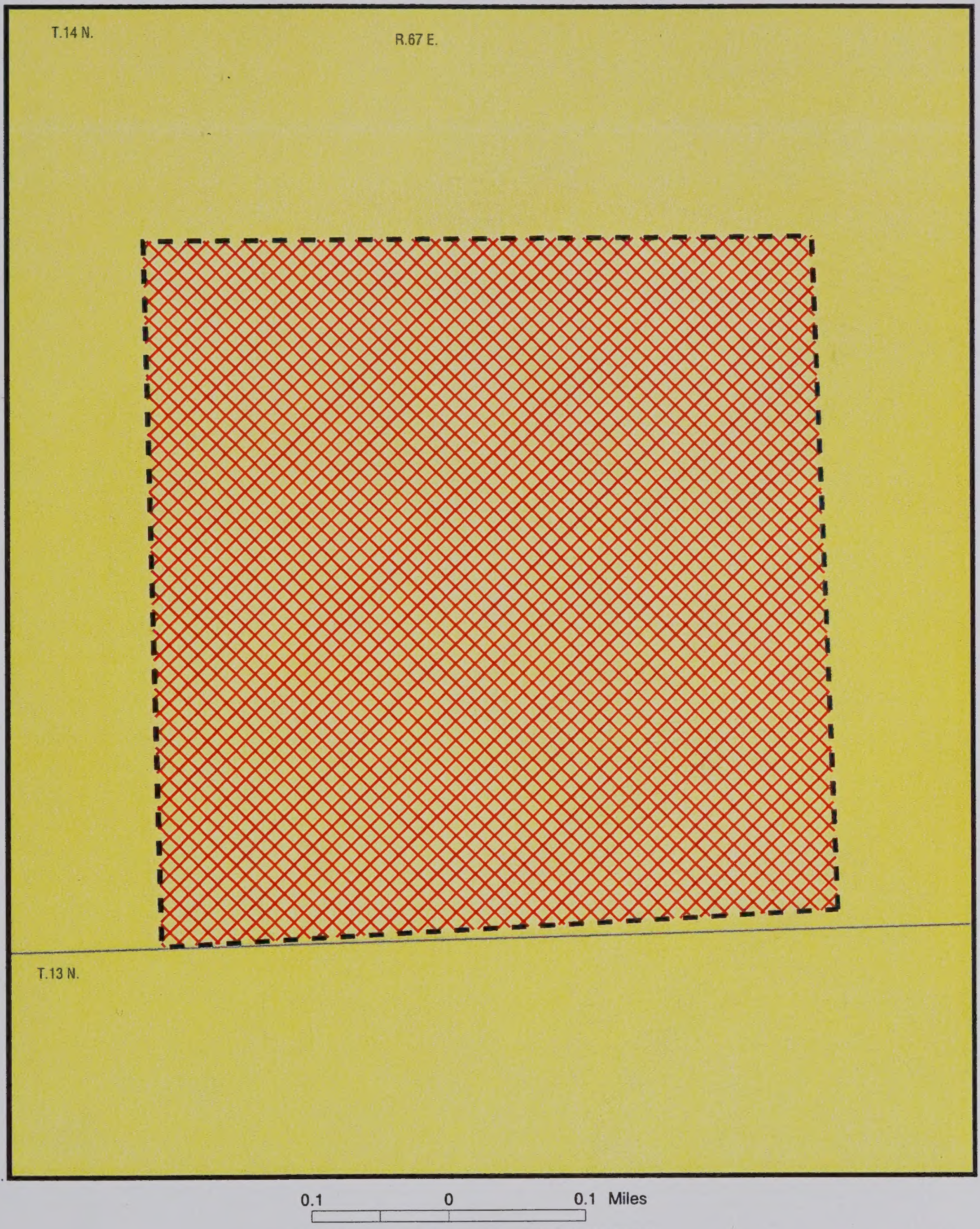
🟨 **BLM**

Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA

10/23/2000

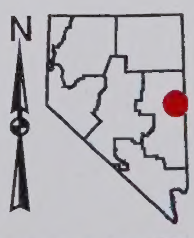
Shoshone Pygmy Sage Instant Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL



CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.



Shoshone Pygmy Sage ISA

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

🟨 **BLM**

SHOSHONE PONDS INSTANT STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 1,240 acres

The Shoshone Ponds Natural Area is located approximately 40 road miles southeast of Ely, Nevada in White Pine County and contains 1,240 acres of public land. The study area is bordered on the southeast by private lands. Public lands comprise the remainder of the study area boundary.

The Shoshone Ponds area was designated a Natural Area in 1970 for the protection of several species of fish listed as threatened or endangered. These fish were acquired from various locations in southeastern Nevada and transplanted into artificial ponds built specifically to provide habitat for these fish populations.

The Shoshone Ponds Natural Area was inventoried along with the 1,400 acre roadless review area NV-040-180 during an early special inventory conducted in conjunction with the Intermountain Power Project. That inventory found that the review area met the wilderness act criteria for naturalness, but lacked outstanding opportunities for either solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - **0 acres recommended for wilderness**
1,240 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The Shoshone Ponds Natural Area and its contiguous roadless acreage were determined to lack the wilderness characteristics of outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The wilderness instant study area was recommended for release from further wilderness consideration and the roadless area was not designated as a wilderness study area.

The long and short term effects of releasing Shoshone Ponds Natural Area from interim management protection would be that all uses which were previously compatible with the natural area would continue to be permitted. The area is expected to remain in a natural condition because of the continuing need to protect the fish populations and their habitat.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The landscape character in general remains natural. The intrusions noted are located primarily in the northeastern portion of the study area and are associated primarily with the water developments. These include a water well, small artificial ponds and a livestock exclosure fence. Other intrusions include a highway, access roads and ways, a stock pond, and historical ruins.

B. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are limited due to the flat terrain, low vegetation and small size of the Natural Area. These factors combine to limit the ability of the visitor to avoid others or the sights and sounds of traffic and ranching activities. Opportunities for solitude are not considered to be outstanding in this area.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Hiking, camping, nature study and photography are some of the activities which occur in this area, but neither the diversity nor quality of these activities are considered outstanding.

D. Special Features: Small ponds and artesian wells were developed in this area to provide habitat for threatened and endangered fish. One species of endangered fish continues to exist within the ponds.

The study area also contains remnants of a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp built during the 1930's. Physical remnants of the camp include an earthen structure once used as a swimming and bathing pool and a stone bordered pathway which delineates the living quarters and parade grounds of the camp.

Rocky mountain juniper thrives in the wet meadows of the study area. This is a tree species uncommon to Nevada and found primarily in wet, upland drainages of mountain slopes. The marshy area created by the developed water source attracts wildlife and enhances vegetation diversity.

4. MANAGEABILITY:

The area is not manageable as wilderness due to its small size, the lack of natural boundaries and the limited wilderness character.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

A minerals report from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the U.S. Geological Survey was not prepared for this study area. The potential for the occurrence of oil and gas resources within the study area is considered to be high. The potential for other resources is considered to be low or no potential for occurrence.

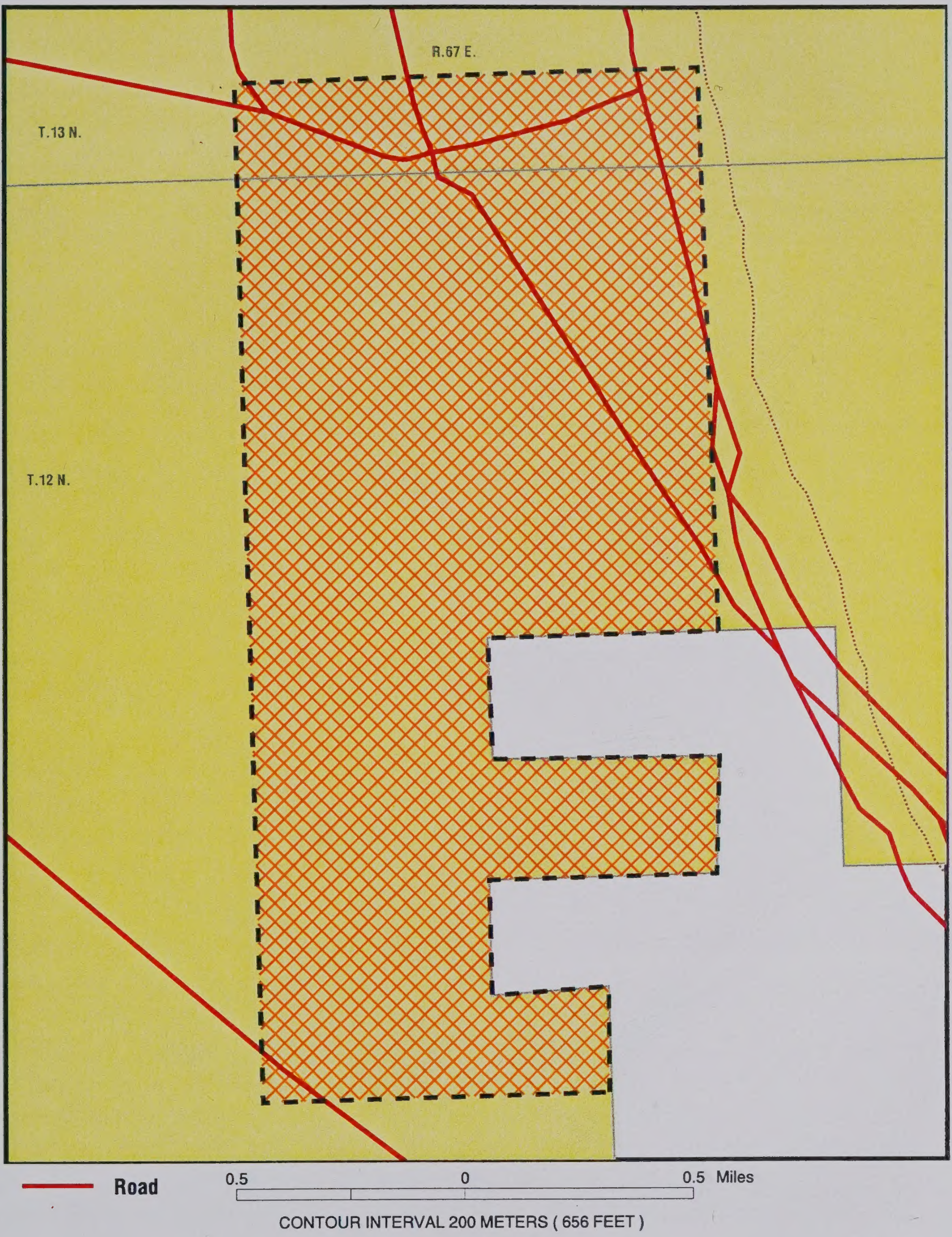
6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC COMMENTS

The Shoshone Ponds Natural Area was inventoried along with the 1,400 acre roadless review area during an early special inventory conducted in conjunction with the Intermountain Power Project. A public meeting was held in Ely, Nevada on November 14, 1978 to describe the findings of the special inventory and to invite public comment. A 90-day public comment review period was held from November 19, 1978 to February 16, 1979. Meetings were also held in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada during the public comment period.

No public comment was received during the public review period regarding the Shoshone Ponds Natural Area or the roadless area NV-040-180.

10/23/2000

Shoshone Ponds Instant Study Area
ISA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R.67 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
Road
0.5
0
0.5 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**

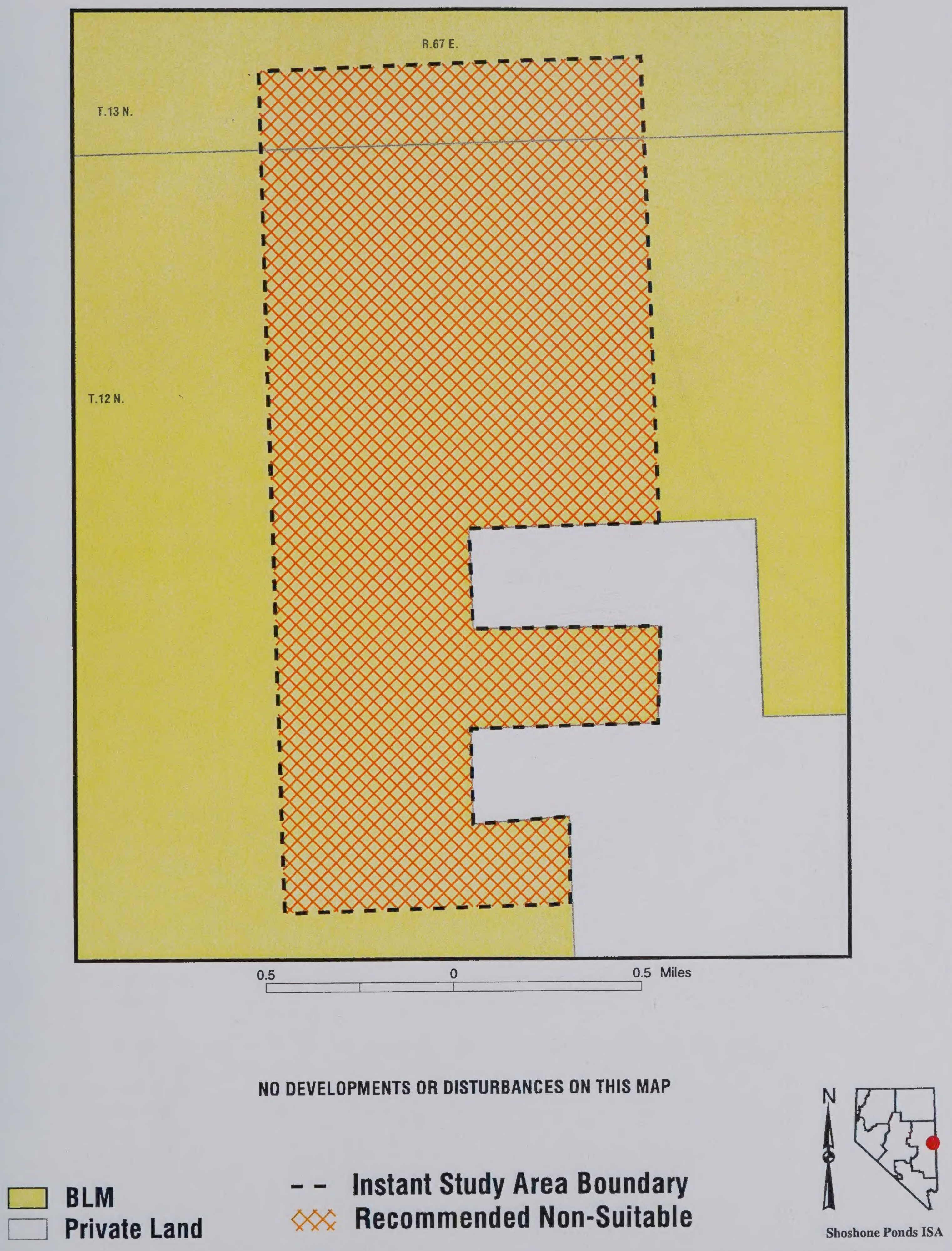
- - Instant Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

N
Shoshone Ponds ISA

10/23/2000

Shoshone Ponds Instant Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES

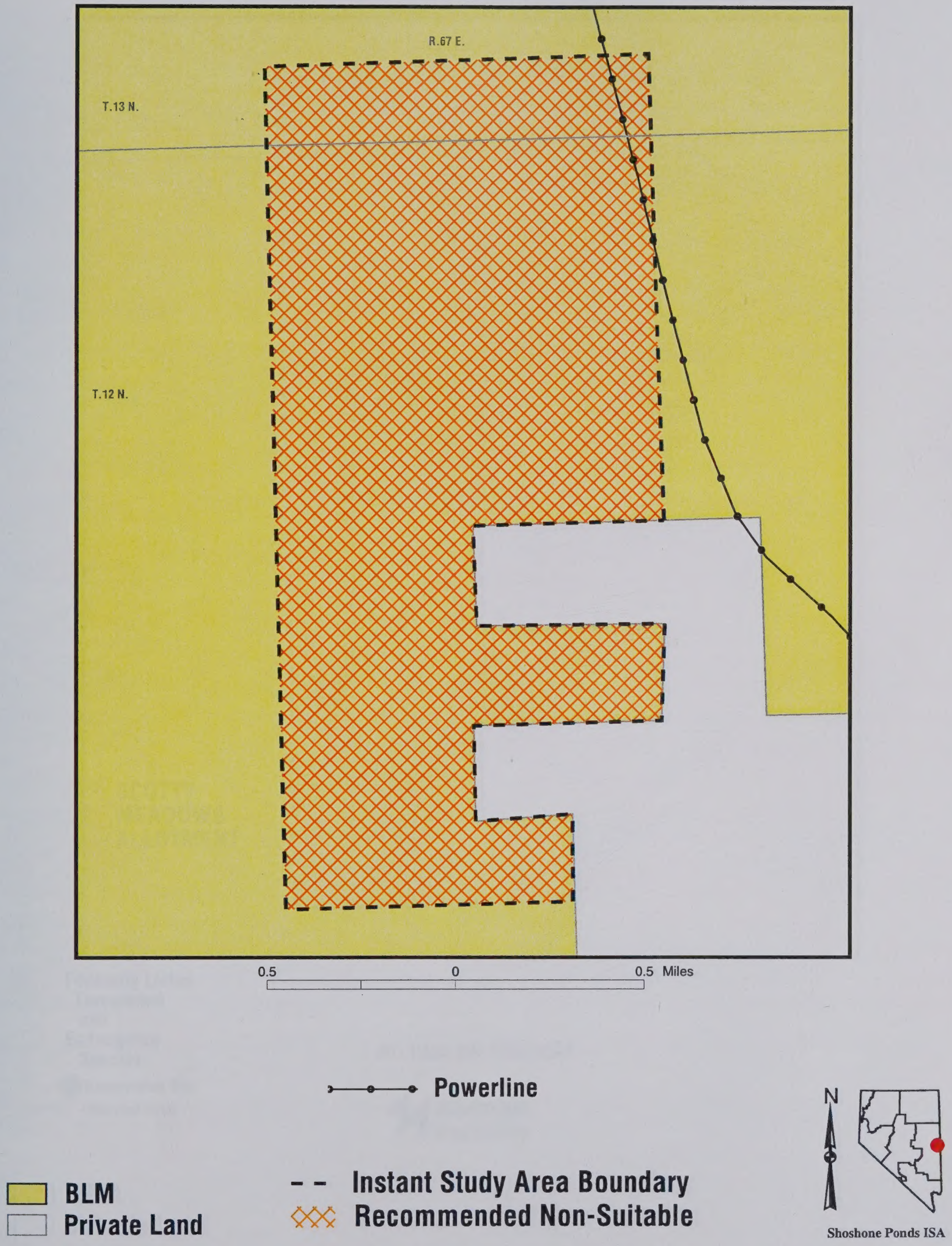

R.67 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
0.5
0
0.5 Miles
N
Shoshone Ponds ISA
🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
- - Instant Study Area Boundary
▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

NO DEVELOPMENTS OR DISTURBANCES ON THIS MAP

10/23/2000

Shoshone Ponds Instant Study Area

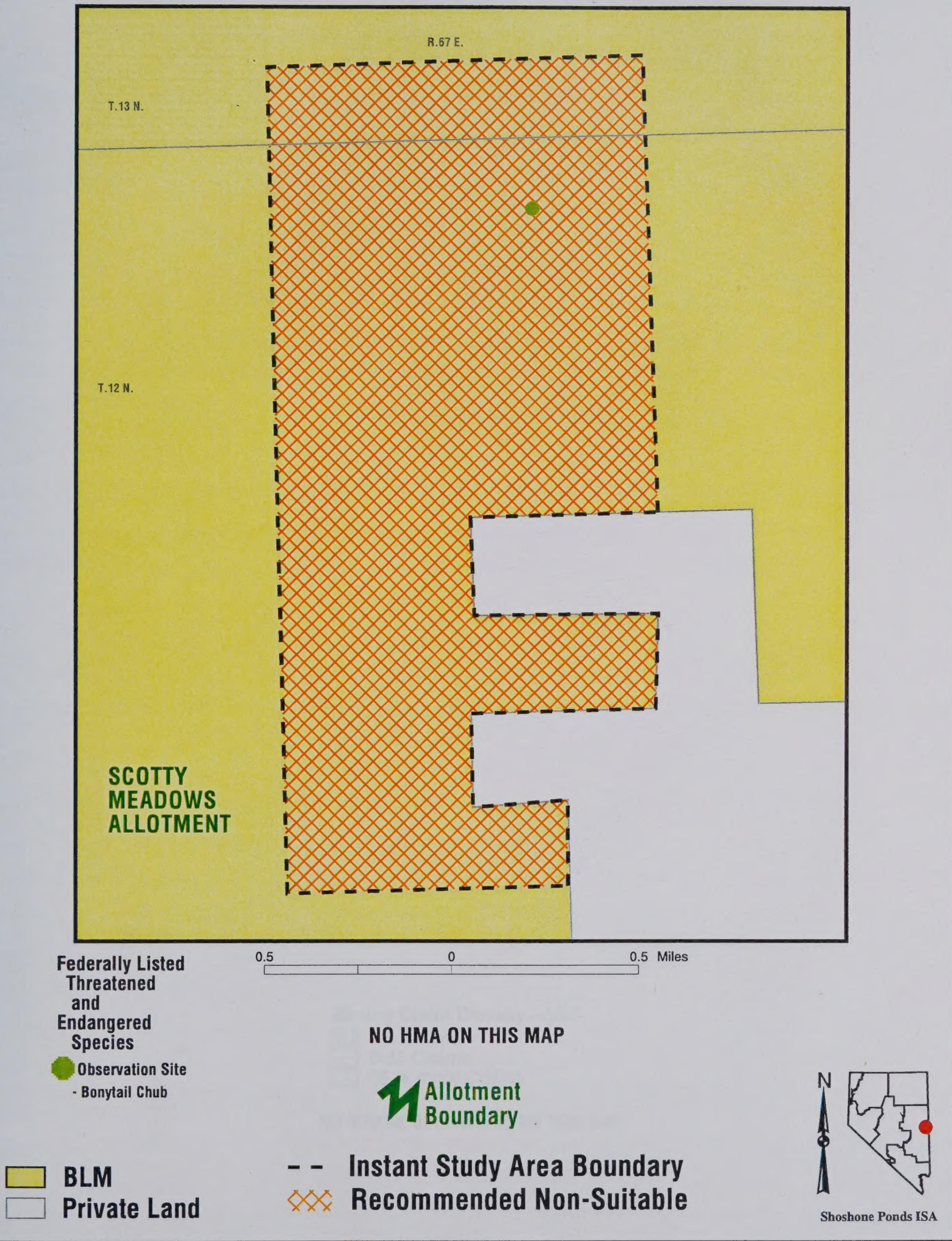
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R.67 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
0.5
0
0.5 Miles
Powerline
BLM
Private Land
Instant Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
Shoshone Ponds ISA

10/23/2000

Shoshone Ponds Instant Study Area

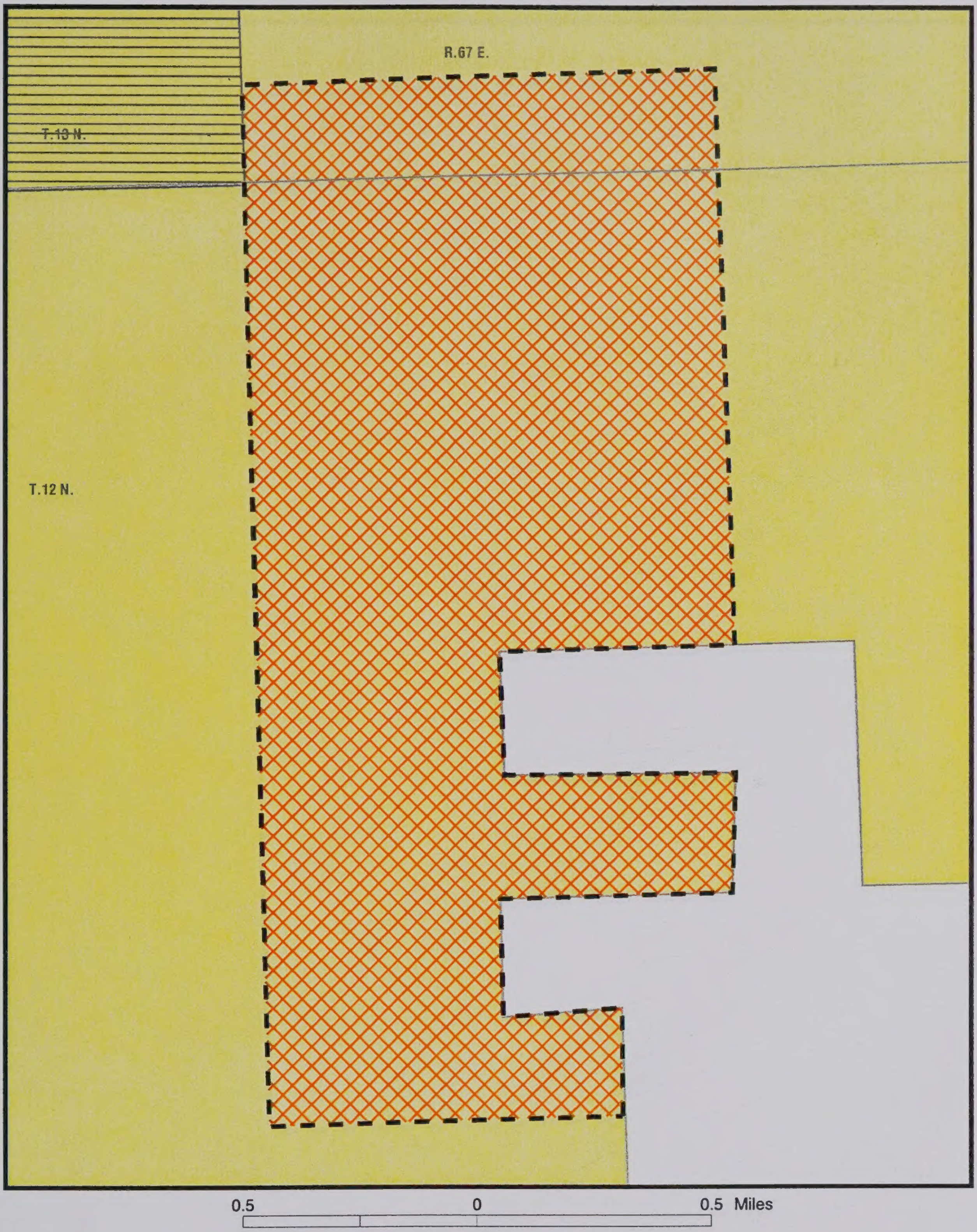
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R.67 E.
T.13 N.
T.12 N.
SCOTTY MEADOWS ALLOTMENT
0.5
0
0.5 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
- Bonytail Chub
NO HMA ON THIS MAP
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Instant Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
Shoshone Ponds ISA

10/23/2000

Shoshone Ponds Instant Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS



Mining Claim Density - 3/97

- ▥ 1-5 Claims
- ▤ 6-35 Claims
- ▧ 36 or more Claims

NO MINING OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

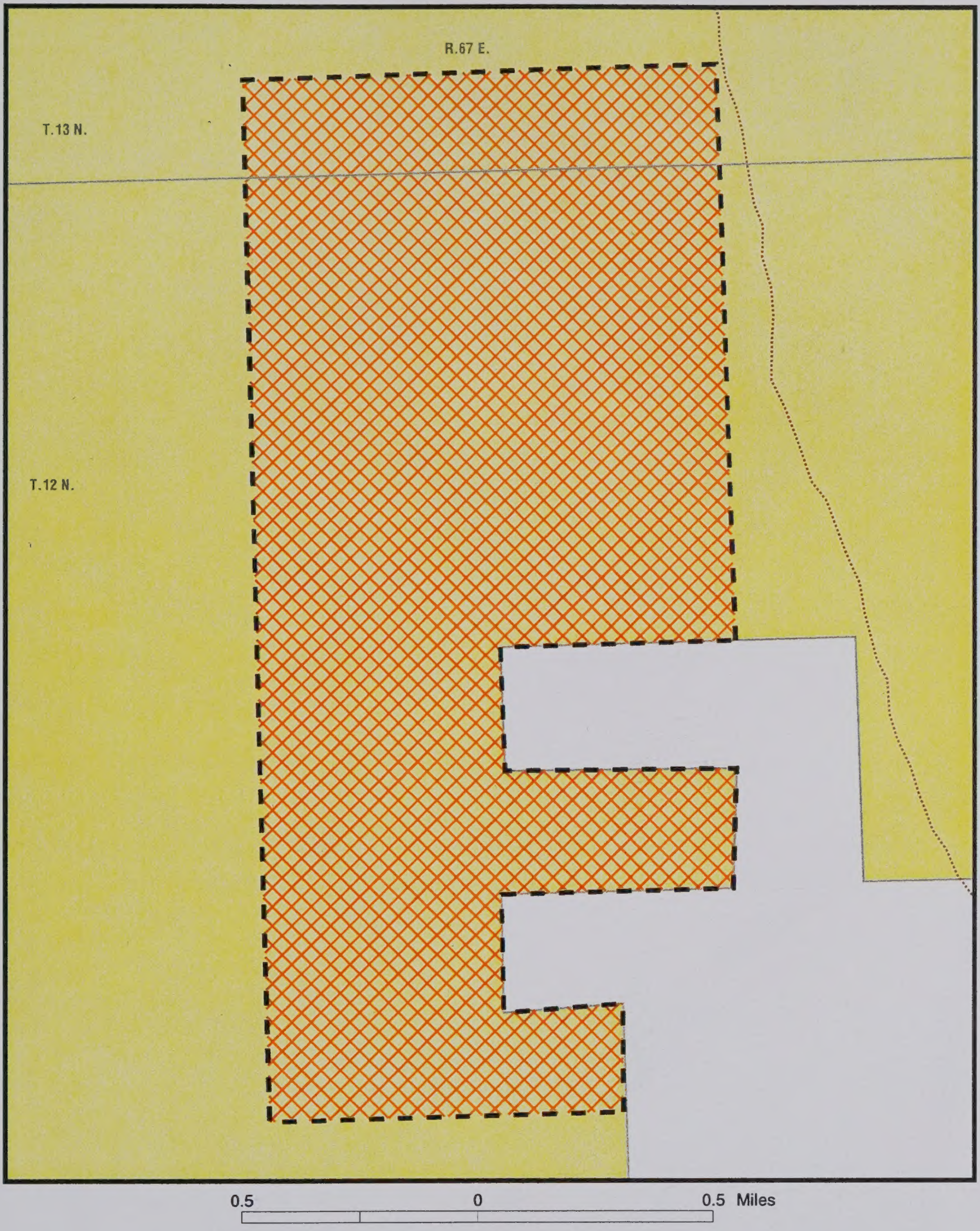
- 🟨 **BLM**
- □ **Private Land**
- - - **Instant Study Area Boundary**
- ▦ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

Shoshone Ponds ISA

10/23/2000

Shoshone Ponds Instant Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL

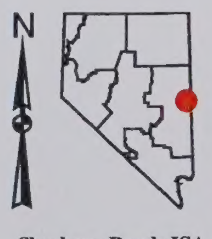


CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**

- - **Instant Study Area Boundary**
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**



Shoshone Ponds ISA

SOUTH PAHROC RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 28,600 acres

The South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA), NV-050-132, is located in Lincoln County, approximately 30 miles west of Caliente, and 120 miles north of Las Vegas. The WSA contains 28,600 acres of BLM lands with no split estate or private inholdings. A powerline road bounds the northern portion of the WSA, while approximately 1.2 miles of the northeastern boundary skirts existing perlite claims. The eastern and southern boundaries of the study area follow the approximate base of the major escarpment. On the unit's west side, the study area is bounded for a distance of 3 miles by an unpaved road that parallels the base of the mountain.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 28,395 acres recommended for wilderness
205 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The 28,395 acre area is recommended for wilderness designation because it is natural and provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The area is manageable as wilderness due primarily to the extreme ruggedness and relative inaccessibility of much of the area.

Conflicts with other resource uses of the portion recommended for wilderness designation are minimal. Grazing use of the area will be allowed to continue. Within the 28,395 acres recommended suitable for wilderness, there are no mining claims as of the date of this report. Identified mineral values within this area include a subeconomic perlite resource, anomalous concentrations of gold, arsenic and antimony,and moderate resource potential for disseminated gold. Oil and gas leases are located along the western edge of the WSA and extend from the adjacent valley into the study area. Identified resource potential for oil and gas and geothermal energy is low.

The 205 acres recommended for uses other than wilderness lie on the far northeastern corner of the South Pahroc Range WSA and are encumbered by pre-FLPMA mining claims filed for perlite. This area is adjacent to an operating perlite mine and is susceptible to a logical extension of the mining operation. Present mining is primarily by underground methods on the steep escarpment; extension of this operation would be screened from the remainder of the WSA by the steep eastern escarpment.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The 28.395 acres recommended for wilderness are predominantly natural. The area is extremely rugged with deeply cut canyons, high ridges, large rounded boulders and heavily forested expanses. Most of the South Pahroc Range is a solitary volcanic massif composed of varying colored layers of welded tuff that have weathered into unusual pockets, columns and stone faces.

The majority of the area is free of man's imprints. A one mile way runs southerly from the north end of the unit. Along the eastern and western boundaries there are pipelines and stock developments consisting of corrals, fences, tanks and earthen reservoirs associated with three developed springs. These are localized imprints visible only from the immediate vicinity. A powerline runs along the northern boundary and a perlite mine, consisting of open pit and tunneling operations, is situated just outside the northeastern boundary of the WSA. These unnatural features are largely screened from the remainder of the WSA by the steep eastern escarpment and thus have little effect on the wilderness values.

The 205 acres recommended for release from wilderness designation is in essentially natural condition.

This area contains pre-FLPMA mining claims filed for perlite. Should these claims prove valid under the test of validity examination, development would be anticipated. The northeast corner of this area is adjacent to an operating perlite mine; naturalness values are diminished in the immediate vicinity of this operation.

B. Solitude: The area recommended for wilderness designation contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Nearly the entire mountain range is enclosed within this area, creating an "island in the sky " effect. Moderately deep, steep-walled drainages cut across the mountain from east to west. Differential weathering of welded tuff layers has created numerous pockets, holes, columns and the ubiquitous, large rounded boulders that provide excellent topographic screening. These geologic features are heavily interlaced with stands of pinyon-juniper, white fir and aspen forming isolated glades in which a person is isolated from even relatively nearby groups. The overall effect of these differing qualities is to provide a large area where outstanding solitude is complemented by natural and scenic wonder.

Within the 205 acres recommended for uses other than wilderness, the opportunities for solitude are diminished by the comparative openness of the terrain and the sparseness of vegetative cover. Much of this area is gently rolling bajada; the ubiquitous large tuff boulders are less numerous in this region and the stands of pinyon-juniper less dense. Grasses cover substantial portions of the landscape, providing little vegetative screening.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The 28,395 acre area recommended for wilderness designation, by virtue of its size, terrain diversity and vegetation, provides outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.The high ridge, steep canyons, and large boulders provide ample day and overnight hiking, camping and climbing or scrambling opportunities. Wildlife viewing includes mule deer, mountain lion, newly reintroduced bighorn sheep, golden eagles and prairie falcons. Hunting is known to occur along the flanks of the WSA, but the level of activity within the interior is unknown.

Numerous steep-walled drainages cut across the mountain from east to west; precipitous cliffs create vantage points for hikers that provide an impressive view of huge empty desert valleys, interrupted only by successive intervening chains of even more distant mountains. Overlying this pattern is a jumbled mosaic of small to house-sized rounded tuff boulders, heavily interlaced with pinyon and juniper, occasional white fir and aspen. Backpackers and rockscramblers would enjoy challenging climbs that culminate in scenic overlooks atop these gargantuan geologic features. Within secluded forested pockets, campers and photographers might observe mule deer, mountain lion, bighorn sheep or a variety of raptors, including golden eagles and prairie falcons. Unique rounded rocks, columns, stone faces, balancing rocks which look like stacked bagels, and expansive scenery make interesting subjects for study and photography. These features combine to enhance the recreational values contained within the South Pahroc Range WSA.

Within the area not recommended for wilderness designation, the opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are limited. The rolling bajada terrain and paucity of large boulders reduces the number of climbing and scrambling locales. Sparse stands of pinyon-juniper and open, grassy knolls provide few secluded locales for camping. Scenic vistas for sightseeing and nature photography are generally unavailable in this region.

D. Special Features: Several special features supplement the wilderness values of the 28,395 acres recommended for wilderness designation. This "island in the sky" is comprised of west-tilting layers of tuff that have weathered into the area's unique pockets, holes, columns and house-sized rounded tuff boulders. Opalescent feldspar crystals, obsidian "Apache tears", and perlite occur in local deposits and are of interest to specimen collectors.

Living resources include the regionally rare white fir, aspen, prairie falcons, golden eagles, and mountain lions. Their presence in this WSA offers excellent opportunities for scientific observation.

The scenic qualities of the South Pahroc Range are outstanding due, in part, to the interaction of the mountain landforms, the multi-colored rock stratigraphy, the variably-sized rounded boulders, diverse vegetation and vast, open vistas.

4. **MANAGEABILITY**: The 28,395 acres recommended for wilderness designation can reasonably be managed to preserve the exceptional wilderness values now present in the area. The ruggedness of the terrain makes it inaccessible to motorized vehicles, and no mining claims exist within this area. Oil and gas leases extend into a small part of the western WSA; a low resource potential for oil and gas has been identified in this region and development of these leases is not anticipated to occur. The 205 acres in the northeast corner of the WSA not recommended for wilderness designation are judged not to be as easily managed for wilderness. The upland portions of this area are encumbered by pre-FLPMA mining claims which are projected to be developed as an extension of an operating perlite mine. The eastern fringes of this corner of the WSA are bajadas which would permit vehicular access to limited areas.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The northeast portion of the WSA contains an identified, subeconomic perlite resource of about 6 million tons. Three perlite placer claims lie partly within the study area. A localized area along the southeastern border of the WSA contains anomalous concentrations of gold, arsenic, and antimony and has moderate mineral resource potential for disseminated gold. It is unlikely that this resource will be developed. There is a low resource potential for oil and gas and no potential for geothermal energy resources in the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 157 comments specifically addressing this WSA were received. Of those, 157 were written and 3 were oral statements received at the two public hearings on the EIS. In general, 54 commentators supported more wilderness than the proposed action, 100 commentators supported the proposed action and three commentators supported less wilderness than the proposed action.

Most comments which specifically mentioned the South Pahroc Range WSA touched on high wilderness values (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation), high scenic values (rugged rocky terrain, deep canyon topography and dense forest vegetation and the lack of conflicts with other resource uses. Comments opposing wilderness centered around conflicts with mineral potential of the WSA.

County: No comments were received from county agencies or officials.

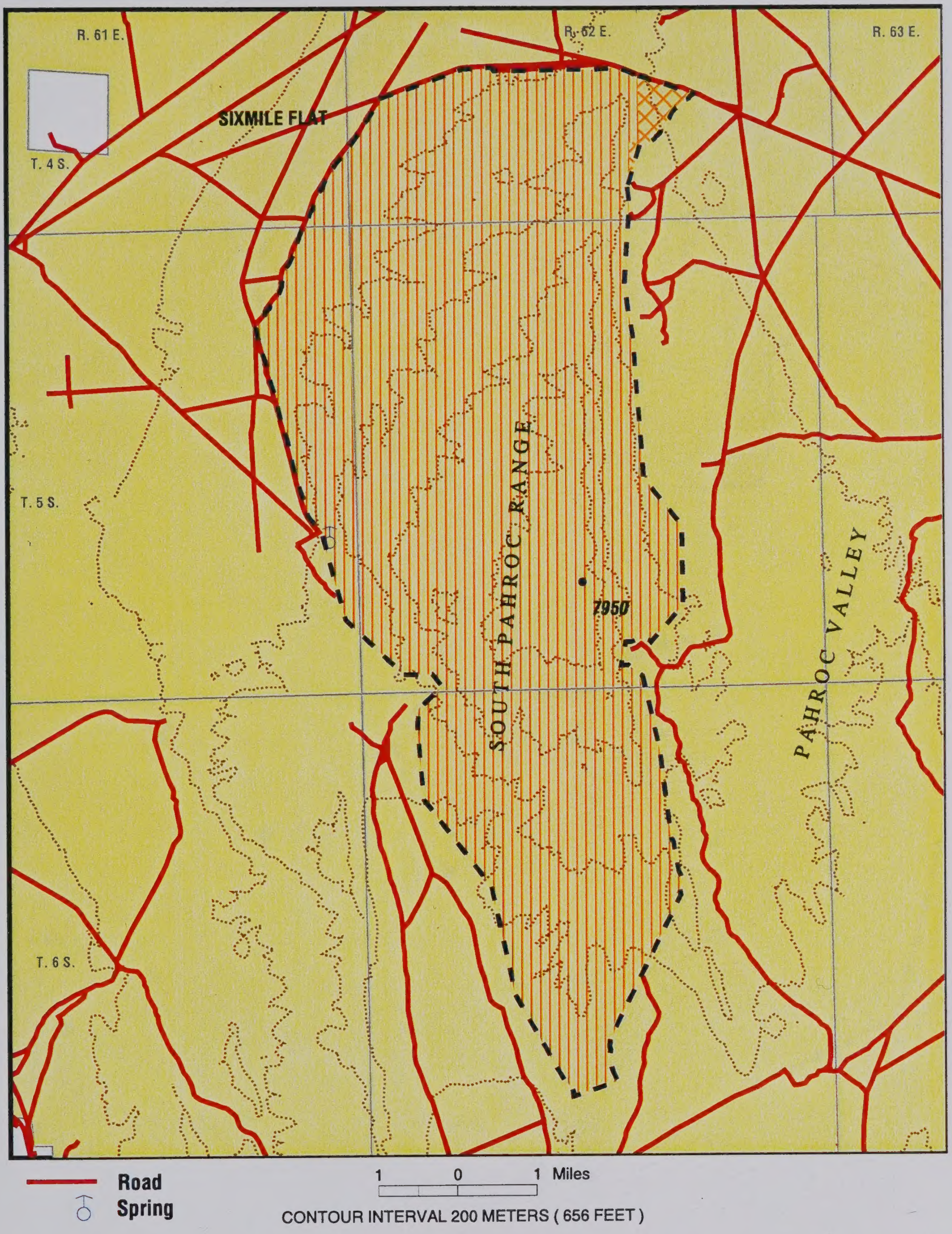
State: The Governor of Nevada, in his consistency letter dated September 17, 1985, supported the Bureau's Preferred Alternative. The Nevada Department of Wildlife expressed concerns that wilderness designation could hinder the reintroduction of bighorn sheep and the development of water sources. If these problems could be resolved, this agency would support the Preferred Alternative.

Federal: The U.S. Bureau of Mines suggested a boundary change along the east side of the study area to exclude the tuff unit containing perlite potential.

10/25/2000

South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R. 61 E.
R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
SIXMILE FLAT
SOUTH PAHROC RANGE
PAHROC VALLEY
7950
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

||||| Recommended Suitable

🟨 **BLM**

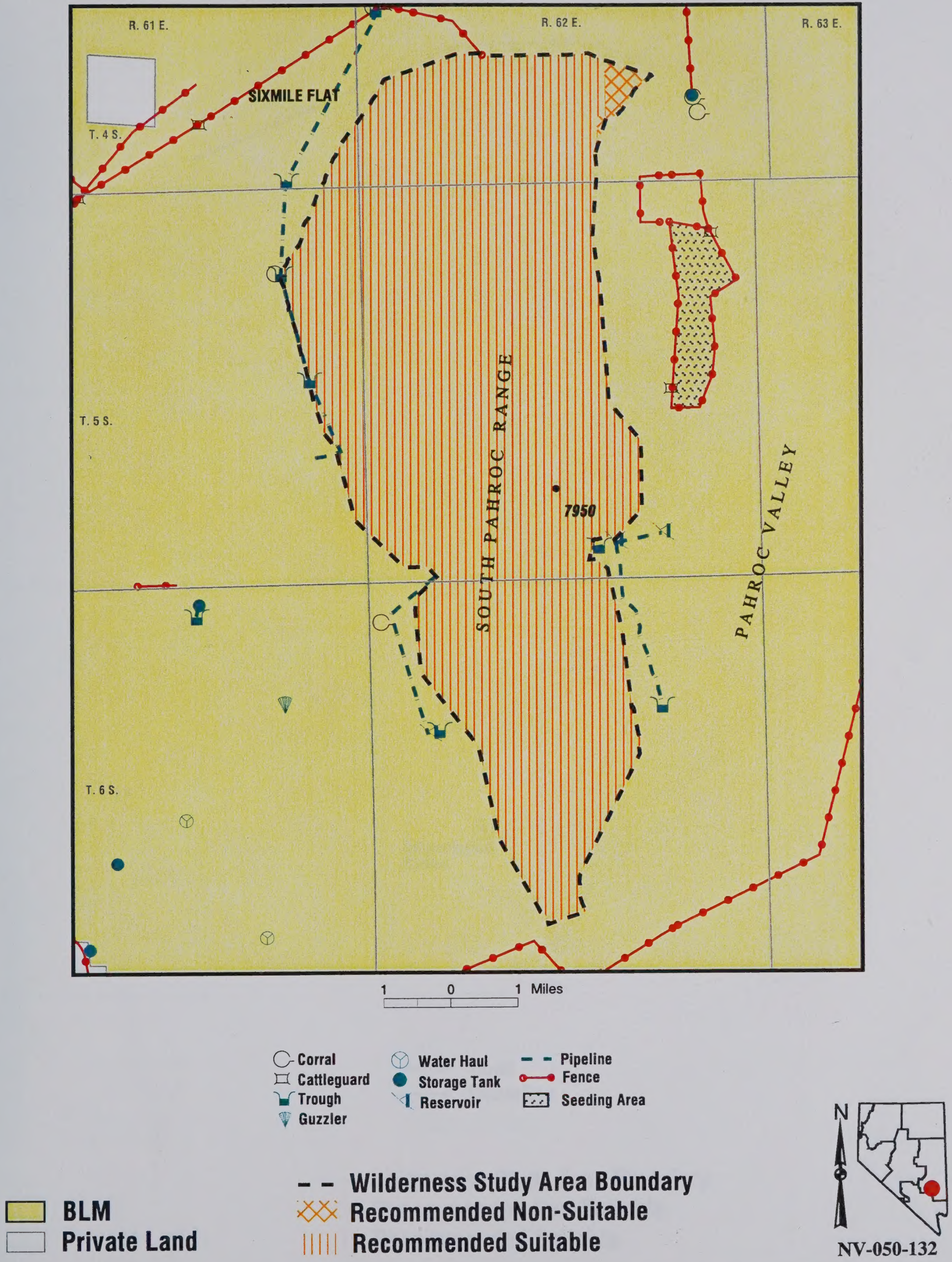
☐ **Private Land**

NV-050-132

10/25/2000

South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area

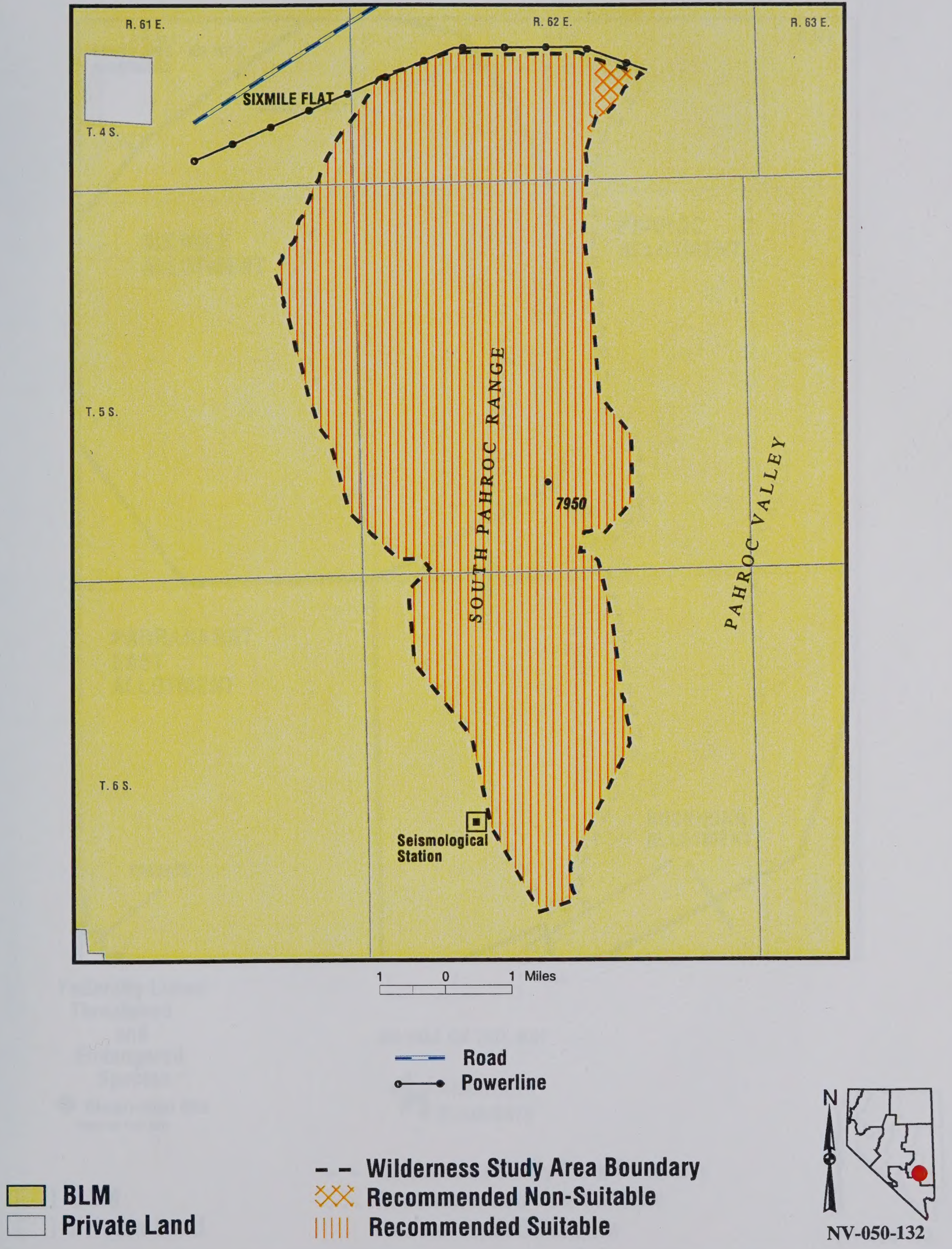
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R. 61 E.
R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
SIXMILE FLAT
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
SOUTH PAHROC RANGE
7950
PAHROC VALLEY
1 0 1 Miles
Corral
Cattleguard
Trough
Guzzler
Water Haul
Storage Tank
Reservoir
Pipeline
Fence
Seeding Area
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N

NV-050-132

10/25/2000

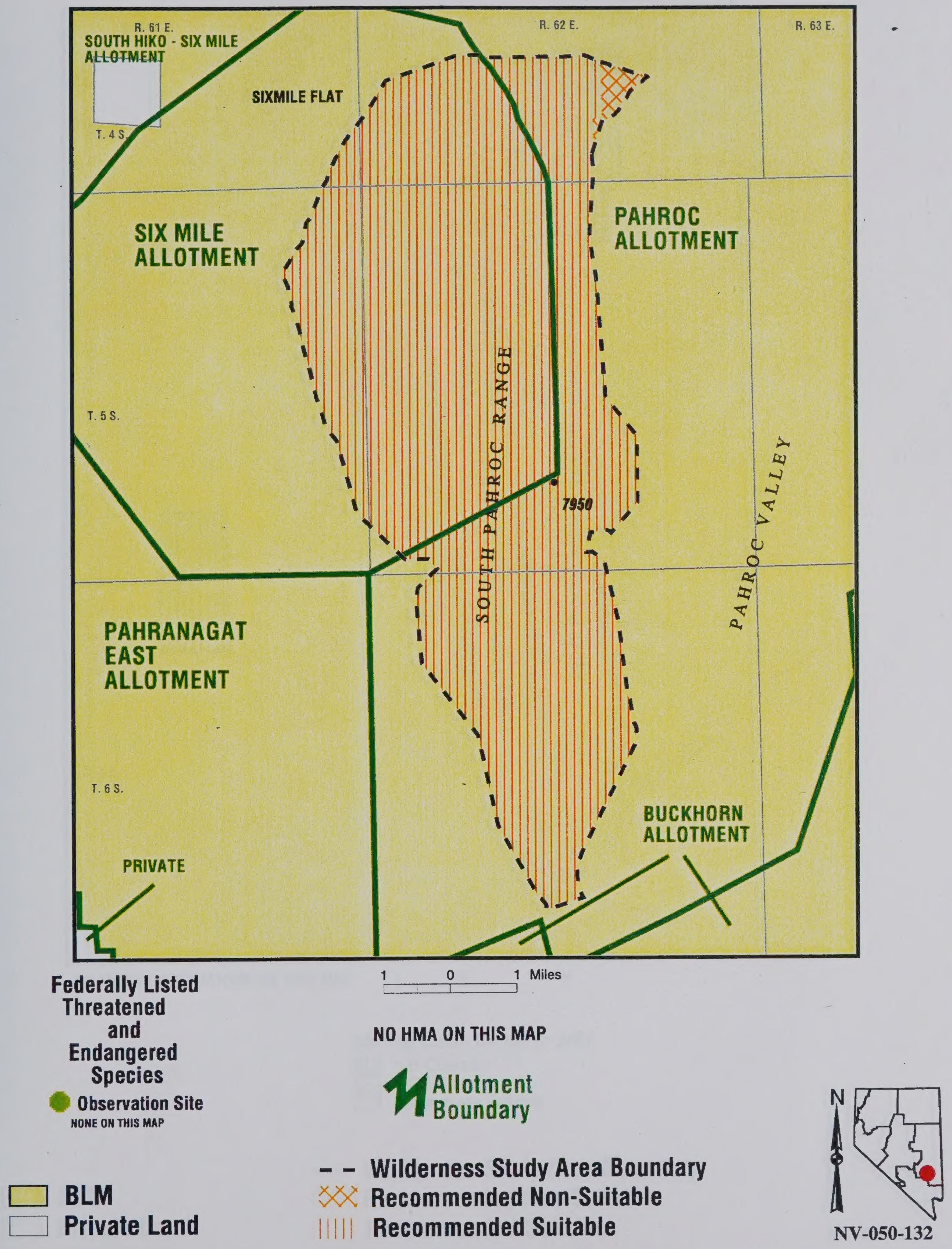
South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R. 61 E.
R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
SIXMILE FLAT
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
SOUTH PAHROC RANGE
PAHROC VALLEY
7950
Seismological Station
1 0 1 Miles
Road
Powerline
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-050-132

10/25/2000

South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area

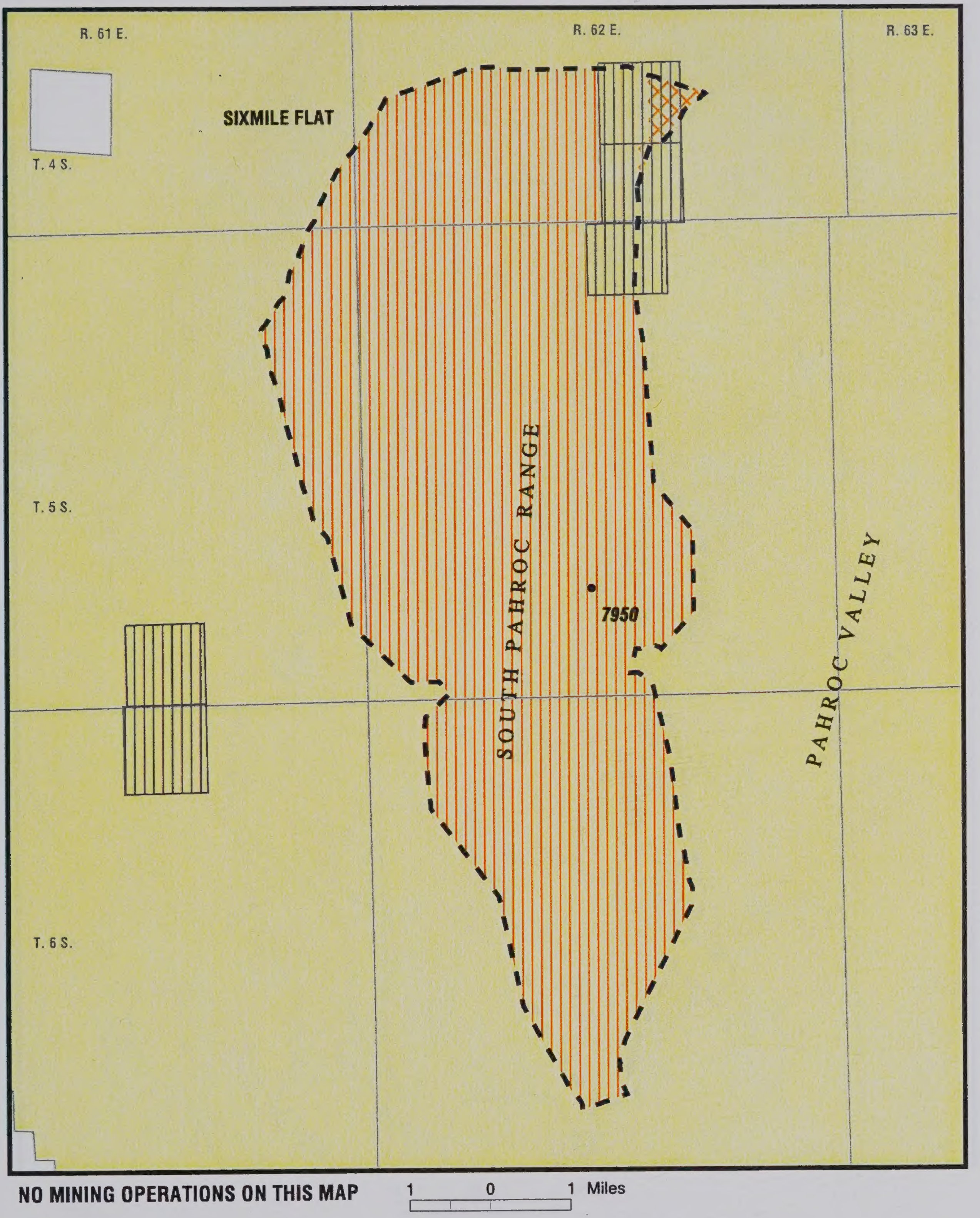
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R. 61 E.
R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
SOUTH HIKO - SIX MILE ALLOTMENT
SIXMILE FLAT
T. 4 S.
SIX MILE ALLOTMENT
PAHROC ALLOTMENT
T. 5 S.
SOUTH PAHROC RANGE
7950
PAHROC VALLEY
PAHRANAGAT EAST ALLOTMENT
T. 6 S.
BUCKHORN ALLOTMENT
PRIVATE
1 0 1 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
NO HMA ON THIS MAP
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-132

10/25/2000

South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R. 61 E.
R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
SIXMILE FLAT
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
SOUTH PAHROC RANGE
7950
PAHROC VALLEY
1
0
1
Miles

NO MINING OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

Mining Claim Density - 3/97

- ▥ 1-5 Claims
- ☰ 6-35 Claims
- ▧ 36 or more Claims

- ▭ **BLM**
- ☐ **Private Land**

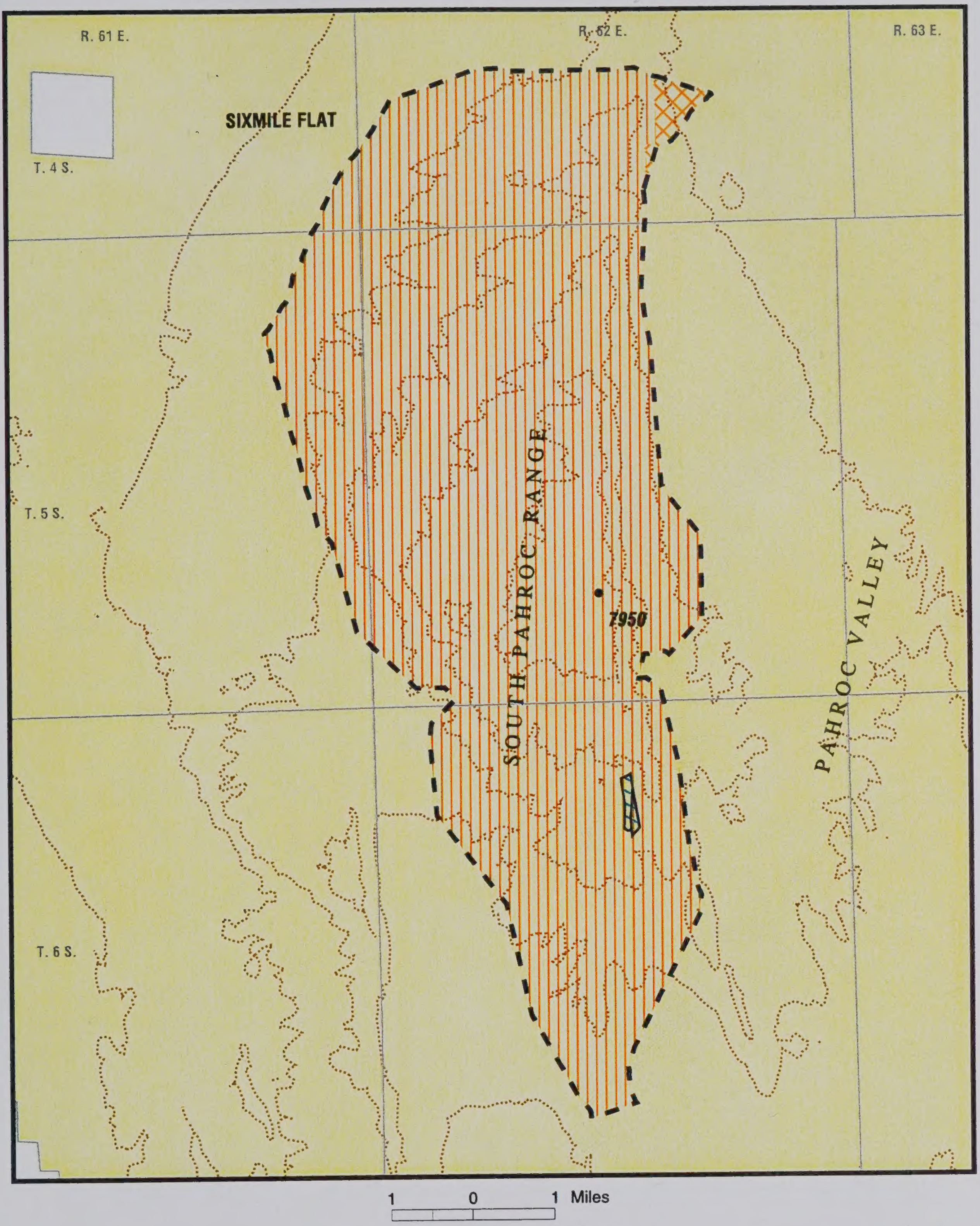
- - - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
- ✕✕✕ **Recommended Non-Suitable**
- ||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-050-132

10/25/2000

South Pahroc Range Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R. 61 E.
R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
SIXMILE FLAT
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
SOUTH PAHROC RANGE
PAHROC VALLEY
7950
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **Medium - Gold**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

|||| Recommended Suitable

🟨 BLM

☐ Private Land

NV-050-132

CLOVER MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 84,935 acres

The Clover Mountains WSA (NV-050-139) is located in southern Lincoln County, Nevada, approximately twelve miles south of Caliente, Nevada, in the western Clover Mountains. The WSA contains 84,935 acres of BLM land with no split estate lands or private inholdings.

Along the southwest side, from the intersection of Pennsylvania Canyon and Meadow Valley Wash southerly, the boundary is formed by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks or the adjoining access road, whichever is more easterly, except for a tract of private land. At the private land, the boundary is formed by a combination of the private land and the access road. The southern boundary is formed by extending a line easterly from the midline of Section 3, T.8S., R.67E., approximately along a ridgeline, to the approximate center of Section 4, T.8S., R.68E., at map elevation 4,671'. From there the line extends southeasterly, point to point, to the northern slopes of Garden Mountain, thence northerly and easterly across the lower slopes of the Clover Mountains, point to point, to a point about one mile north of Sam's Camp Well. The boundary goes generally northerly and easterly to join the jeep road at East Setting Spring and follows the road up Quaking Aspen Canyon to its junction with the East Pass Road. At this junction, it turns west for some three miles, then forms a broad arc, northwesterly to north, roughly approximating the ridgelines between Sheep and Stokes Flats to the east and the Cottonwood Creek drainage to the west, to a peak mapped as 6,112' adjacent to Stokes Flat. Going point to point from there it extends northerly and westerly through peaks 6,289, 6,192 and 6,445, joining an unnamed jeep trail at its intersection with the range line between R.67 and R.68E and following the trail west to its juncture with the Ella Mountain Road, east-southeast of Ella Mountain Lookout. The ridgeline between Pine Creek and Pennsylvania Canyon is followed south to Peak 6,457' where a canyon bottom is followed, leading to the southwest from the peak, and eventually west to Pennsylvania Canyon. The road in Pennsylvania Canyon is followed, south to the intersection with the access road along the railroad in Meadow Valley Wash. From there south to the point of origin at the north boundary of the private lands, it follows the access road.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 84,875 acres recommended for wilderness
60 acres recommended for nonwilderness

Wilderness designation is recommended for 84,875 acres of public land within the Clover Mountains WSA because the area is natural and provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. **In the preferred alternative analyzed in the FEIS, the bulk of the 770 acres not recommended for wilderness designation were adjacent to the Pennsylvania Mining District and were heavily encumbered by mining claims. Although geochemical analysis did not bear out the claimants optimism, the potential manageability problems attendant in these claims, in concert with the relatively lower wilderness values, were resolved by excluding this area from the wilderness recommendation. Subsequent records checks showed that these claims no longer exist and therefore, an additional 710 acres are now recommended for wilderness.** (Bolded information is included because it was the rationale for the recommendation, however it is no longer accurate. Royal Standard Minerals re-staked these claims in 1996 and plans to conduct exploratory drilling during spring of 1997 in locations outside the WSA). An area of sixty acres in a strip adjacent to the access road and railroad tracks on the WSA's west side remains recommended for nonwilderness uses as in the FEIS.

Conflicts with other resources in the area recommended for wilderness are virtually nonexistent. Grazing use will be allowed to continue. The portion of the WSA not recommended for wilderness, approximately 60 acres, is confined to a narrow strip alongside the railroad and its access road where nonimpairment would be difficult to maintain and the additional space may be needed for realignment and parking for WSA visitors.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: This WSA is substantially natural with minor and localized evidence of man. An historic homesite in Cottonwood Canyon remains along with traces of the flood damaged way into it. Cattle use has broken down stream banks and created trails in Pine and Ash Creeks. The area immediately adjacent to the Pennsylvania Mining District is influenced by moderate activity in the district but the effect is minimized by vegetative and topographic screening.

The area adjacent to the railroad and access road in Meadow Valley Wash is subjected to influences from these features but the effect is minimized by the steep cliffy terrain of the WSA in Meadow Valley Wash. The railroad has conducted emergency maintenance within the Cottonwood Canyon wash nearly 1000 feet inside the WSA in recent years. There is also a cement lining in that wash extending nearly 1300 feet into the WSA which existed prior to 1976 but was not reported in the wilderness inventory. The remainder of the WSA is unaffected by human imprints.

The large drainages included within the unit are very much isolated from external human influences. On the east, extensive heavy stands of pinyon-juniper and incised terrain provide an extremely natural aspect. The remainder of the WSA, on its northwestern side and not recommended for wilderness, is unimpacted by man.

B. Solitude: Opportunities for solitude are outstanding within this WSA. Its large size, lack of narrow protrusions, topographic relief and vegetation all contribute to its solitude. The sharp relief from Meadow Valley Wash eastward into the unit isolates it from the Wash and activities there. In the interior, narrow twisting canyons, cliffs, rock outcrops, peaks, ridges and saddles provide excellent separation within the unit. On the lower region, topographic expression is less but still provides about fifty percent topographic screening. Vegetation is moderate to heavy over much of the unit except in the lower south facing slopes. Screening due to vegetation is strong nearly everywhere except in the lower areas. Secluded spots are easily located almost anywhere in the unit and solitude is rated as outstanding.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities are outstanding due both to the quality and variety of the activities. Day-hiking, backpacking, climbing and scrambling, nature study, photography and horseback riding are all outstanding. Hunting for mule deer is good. The varied topography, vegetation and features create numerous routes, trip lengths and challenges.

4. MANAGEABILITY

The entire WSA and additional areas to complete the watershed are eminently manageable as wilderness for the long term. The area is a solid block of federal land with no inholdings or rights-of-way. No mining claims are present. Some ORVs occasionally penetrate part way up Cottonwood Canyon and thereby gain access to the canyon as well as the southern portion of the WSA, but the railroad tracks preclude all but the most determined from reaching the canyon's mouth. Control is possible for nearly all ORV penetration because of the terrain and vegetation which preclude off-road travel except for some portions of the southern end. All of the area was leased post-FLPMA for oil and gas, but no activity, even seismic data gathering, has taken place and the leases have been terminated.

The area is readily manageable over the long term as wilderness due to its steep bordering terrain and limited number of entry points for vehicles. Some ORV use is evident along the old way in Cottonwood Creek but the presence of the railroad physically controls most of this at the canyon mouth and periodic flooding is reclaiming the wash. The area could be expanded, to provide a more logical and easily identified boundary, by extending the boundary on the northeastern side in the Fife Canyon vicinity and on the northwestern side, to coincide with the watershed divide in both instances. This would greatly enhance

manageability of the Cottonwood Creek area. A limited portion of the area adjacent to the Pennsylvania Mining district may be a little more difficult to manage due to activity on the district, flatter terrain, and because of the proximity of access roads.

4. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

There are no identified mineral resources inside the WSA. Two parts of the WSA have moderate potential for molybdenum. A large portion of the southern part of the WSA area has low mineral resource potential for gold, silver, oil, gas and zeolite mineral resources. A small area outside of and adjacent to the western boundary of the WSA has low potential for gold and silver. Stone, sand and gravel along the Meadow Valley Wash portion of the WSA would have a limited market for use on the railroad and the accompanying access road. There are no oil and gas leases in the WSA as of March 10, 1989 and the area will remain closed to leasing until the wilderness status is determined. **The mining claims located in the northwestern corner of the WSA and for which the boundary of the area recommended for wilderness was adjusted, have been determined "void by law" due to lack of assessment work.** (These claims have since been re-staked.) Mining claims have been filed on the far western side of the WSA in 1986 and 1987 and assessment work was filed September 21, 1988. As of March 10, 1989, there were no other mining claims within the WSA.

Two mining districts lie outside and near the WSA boundary on the northwest and south. Although both had rather limited production, their presence has sparked speculation that similar deposits may be concealed under the thick volcanic cover of the WSA. Claims exist only in a small area on the WSA's western edge. In addition to the previously discussed abandoned claims on the WSA's northwestern side, a large block of molybdenum claims held by a major company was abandoned in the south-central portion of the unit. Available data indicate no marketable mineral deposits are present. The U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1729-D identifies two areas, one in the northern tip and one in the Coldwater Creek drainage as having moderate potential for molybdenum. Much of the southern portion of the area has low potential for gold, silver, zeolite, oil and gas. Scattered sand, stone, and gravel resources exist with the most readily accessible sites along Meadow Valley Wash and in lower Cottonwood Creek. Due to remoteness, they are of local interest only.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 156 written and 5 oral comments specifically addressing this WSA were received. In general, 151 individuals who commented supported more wilderness designation than the preferred alternative, 3 supported the preferred alternative and 7 supported less.

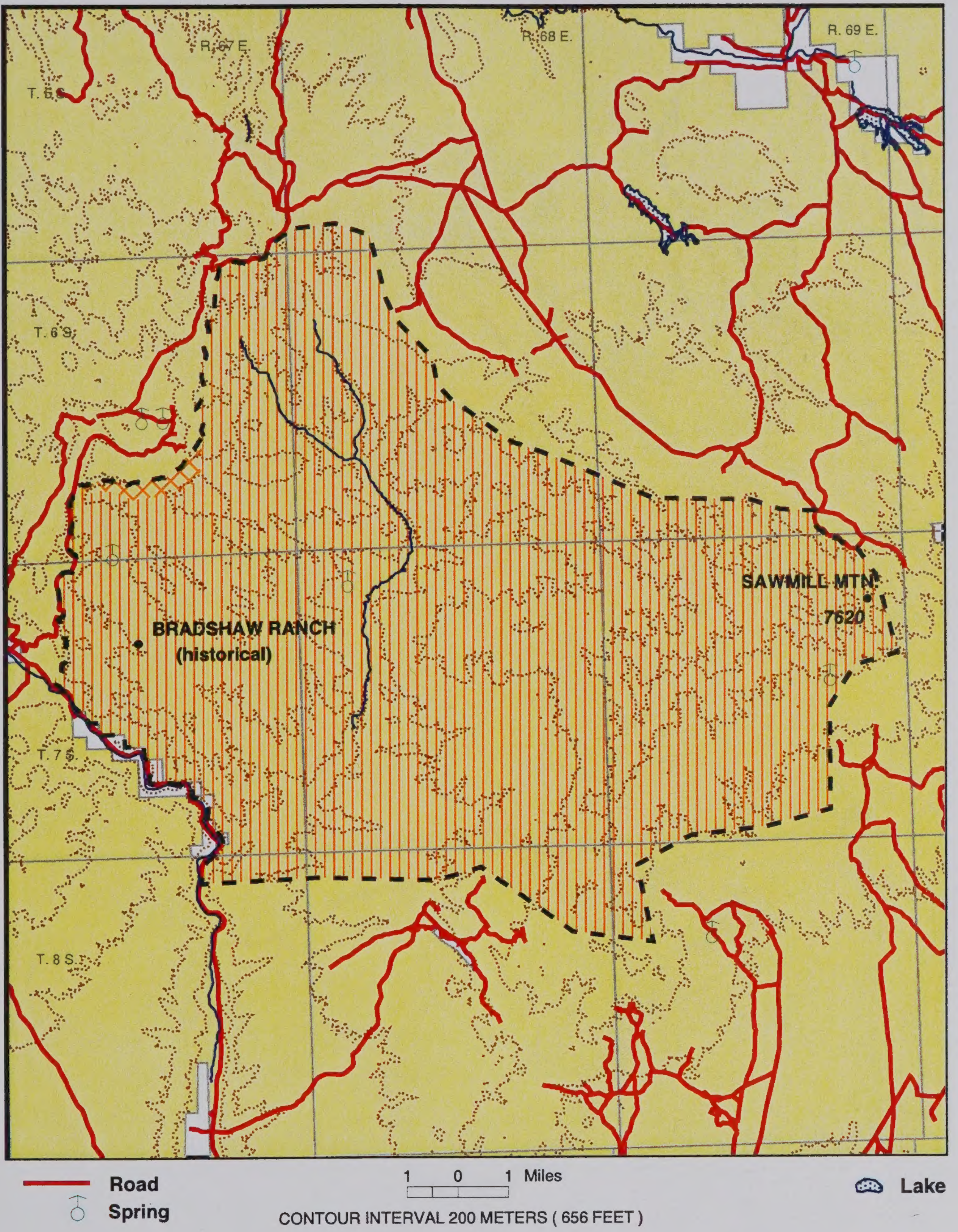
Most comments which specifically mentioned the WSA and supported wilderness designation touch on exceptionally high wilderness values, important wildlife habitat, cultural resource values, significant vegetation, colorful rocks, open basins, narrow canyons and the rare opportunity to preserve all, or nearly all, of a flowing desert stream system. Comments opposing wilderness centered around speculative mineral resource potential and potential impacts to energy and mineral exploration and development.The U.S. Bureau of Mines recommended, in responding to the DEIS, that the border be drawn inward between a mile and three miles along the WSA's western and southwestern boundaries to exclude areas of postulated mineral resources. The EPA noted that the Environmental Consequences chapter should address the water quality impacts for protection of sensitive areas of the Clover Mountain WSA stream.

The State opposed wilderness designation on the basis of its feeling that mineral values were higher than indicated in the DEIS and in the draft FEIS and that management of important mule deer habitat would be precluded by wilderness designation.

10/25/2000

Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R. 67 E.
R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
BRADSHAW RANCH
(historical)
SAWMILL MTN.
7620
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
Lake

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NV-050-139

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

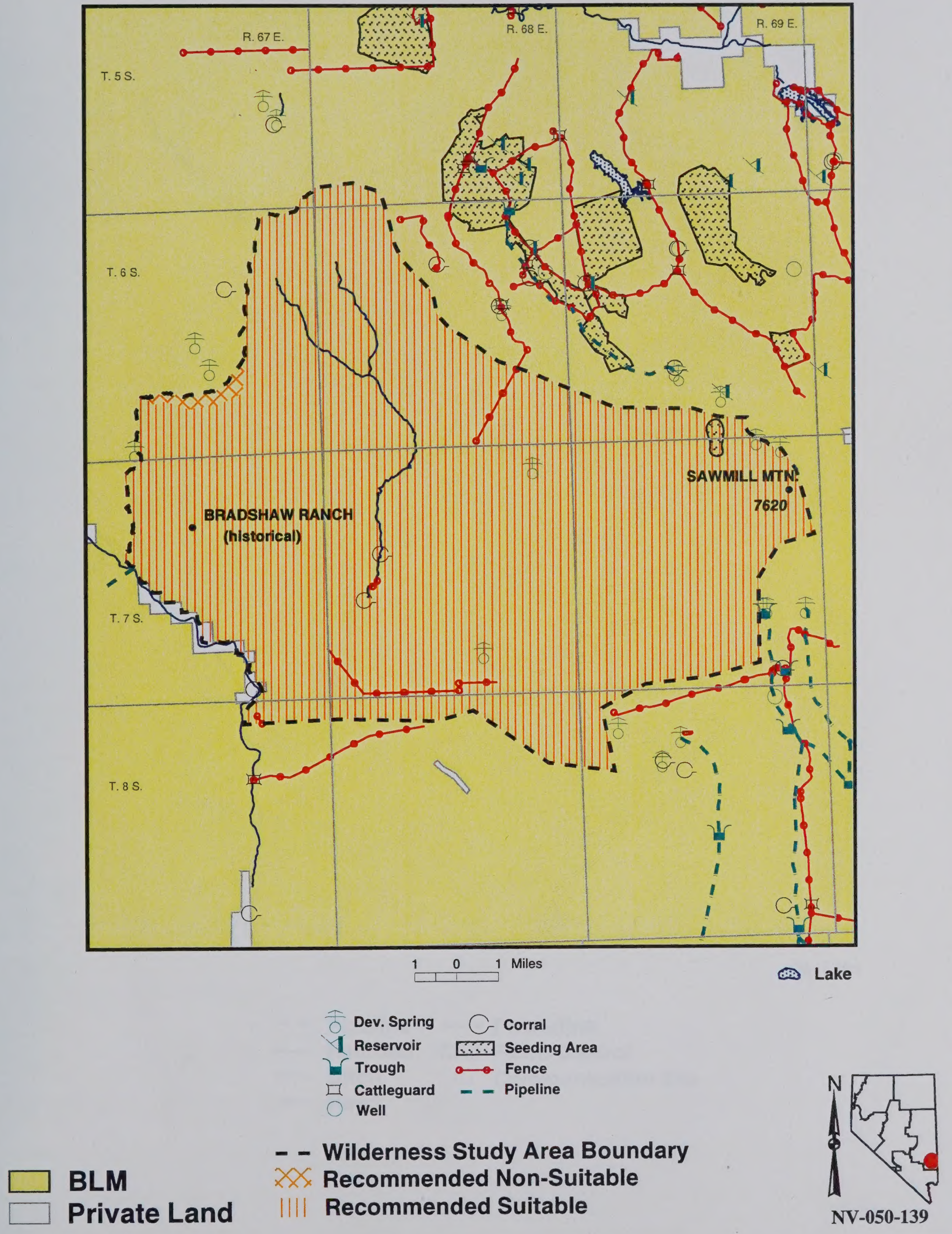
- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

|||| **Recommended Suitable**

Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area

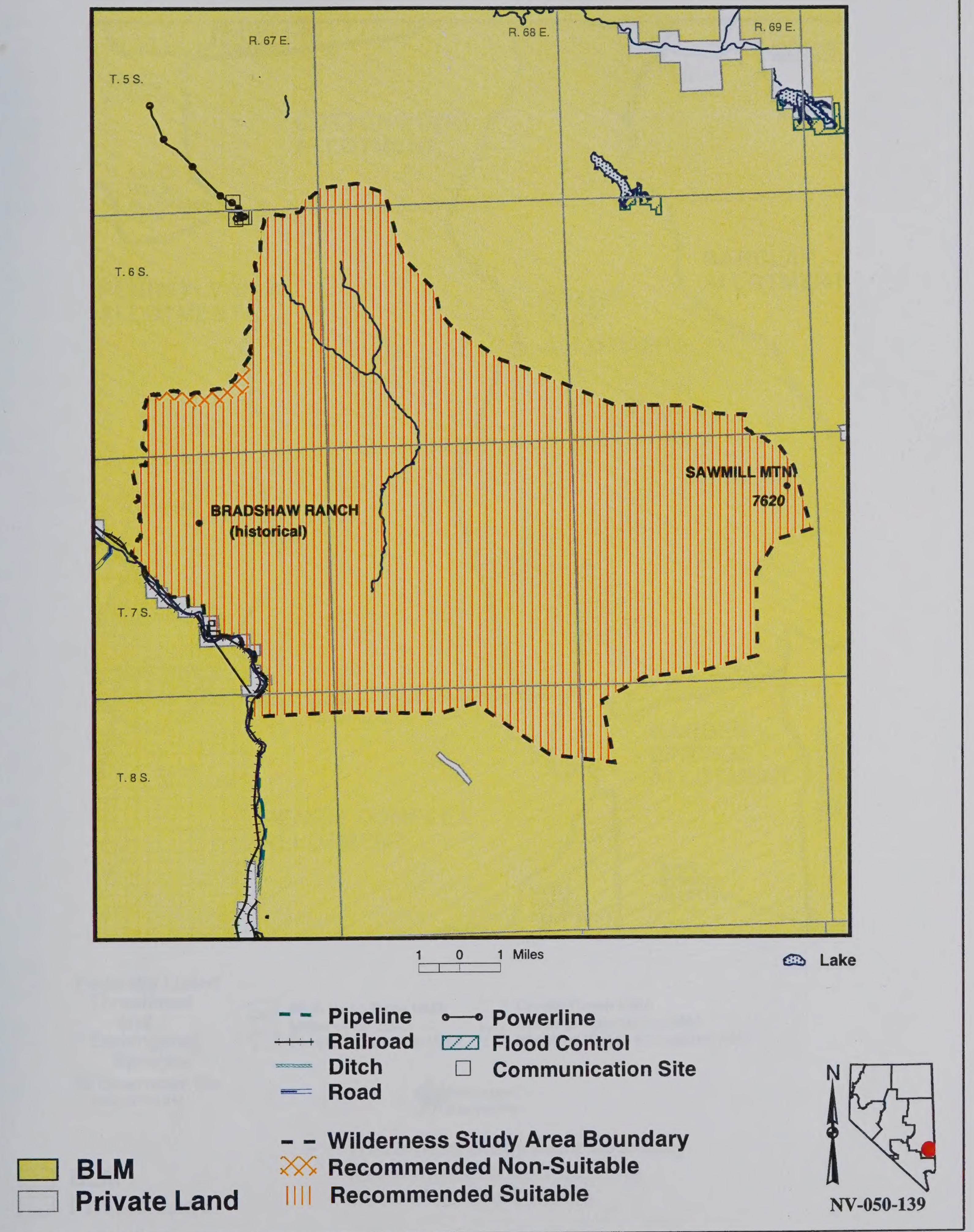
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R. 67 E.
R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
BRADSHAW RANCH
(historical)
SAWMILL MTN.
7620
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Dev. Spring
Reservoir
Trough
Cattleguard
Well
Corral
Seeding Area
Fence
Pipeline
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-139

10/25/2000

Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area

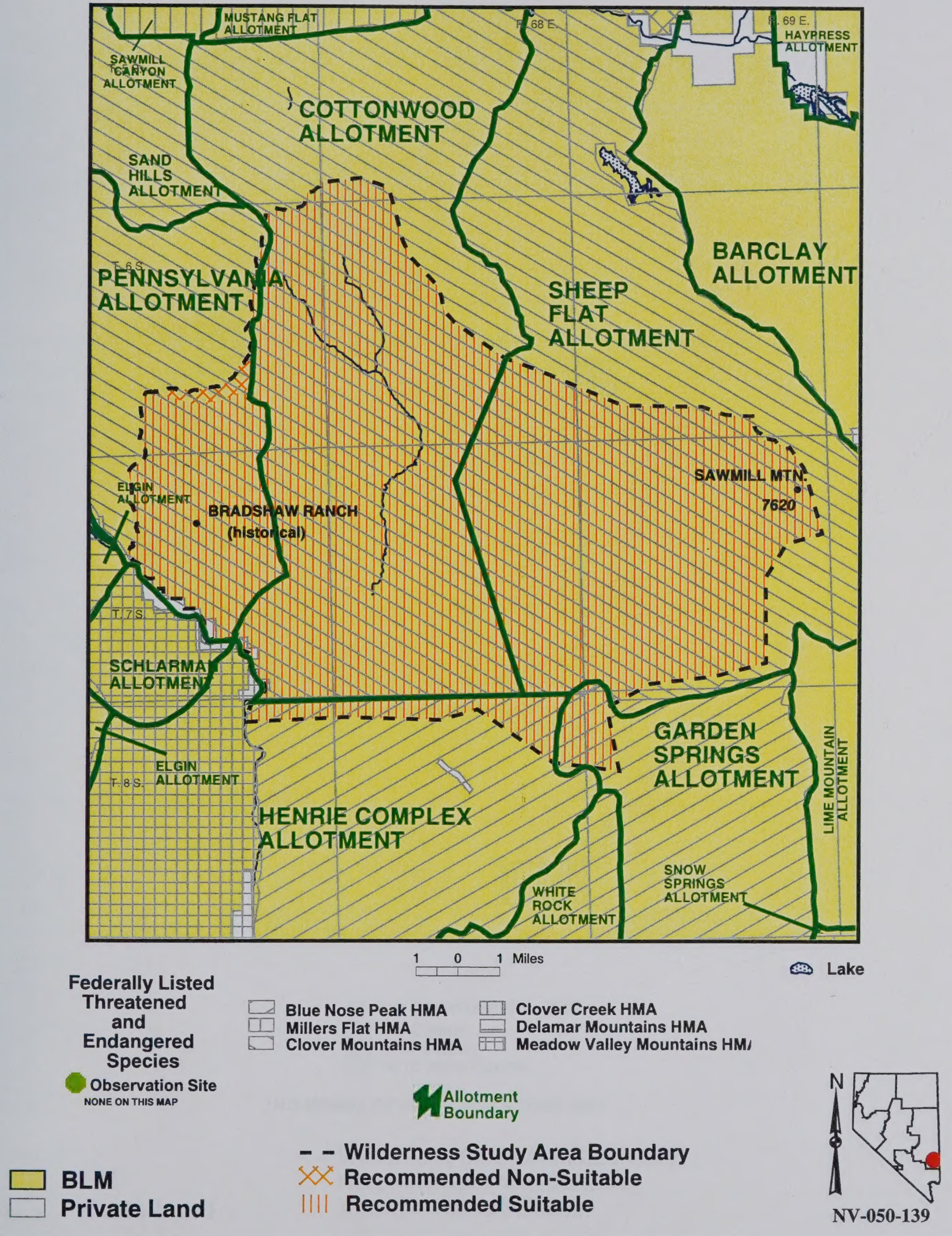
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R. 67 E.
R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
BRADSHAW RANCH
(historical)
SAWMILL MTN.
7620
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Pipeline
Railroad
Ditch
Road
Powerline
Flood Control
Communication Site
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-139

10/25/2000

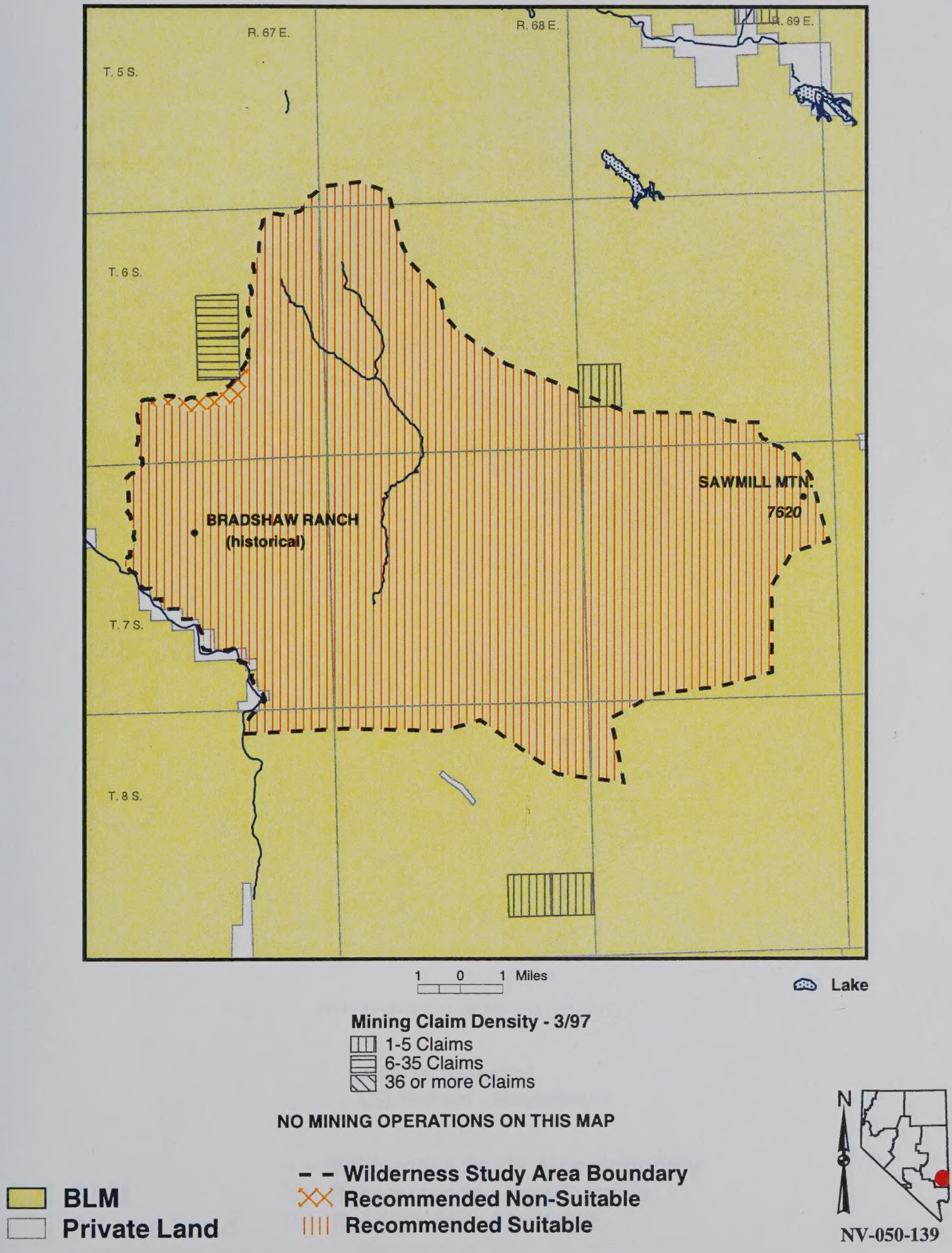
Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


MUSTANG FLAT ALLOTMENT
R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
HAYPRESS ALLOTMENT
SAWMILL CANYON ALLOTMENT
T. 5 S.
COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT
SAND HILLS ALLOTMENT
BARCLAY ALLOTMENT
T. 6 S.
PENNSYLVANIA ALLOTMENT
SHEEP FLAT ALLOTMENT
SAWMILL MTN.
7620
ELGIN ALLOTMENT
BRADSHAW RANCH (historical)
T. 7 S.
SCHLARMAN ALLOTMENT
GARDEN SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
ELGIN ALLOTMENT
T. 8 S.
LIME MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT
HENRIE COMPLEX ALLOTMENT
WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
SNOW SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Blue Nose Peak HMA
Millers Flat HMA
Clover Mountains HMA
Clover Creek HMA
Delamar Mountains HMA
Meadow Valley Mountains HMA
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-139

Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area

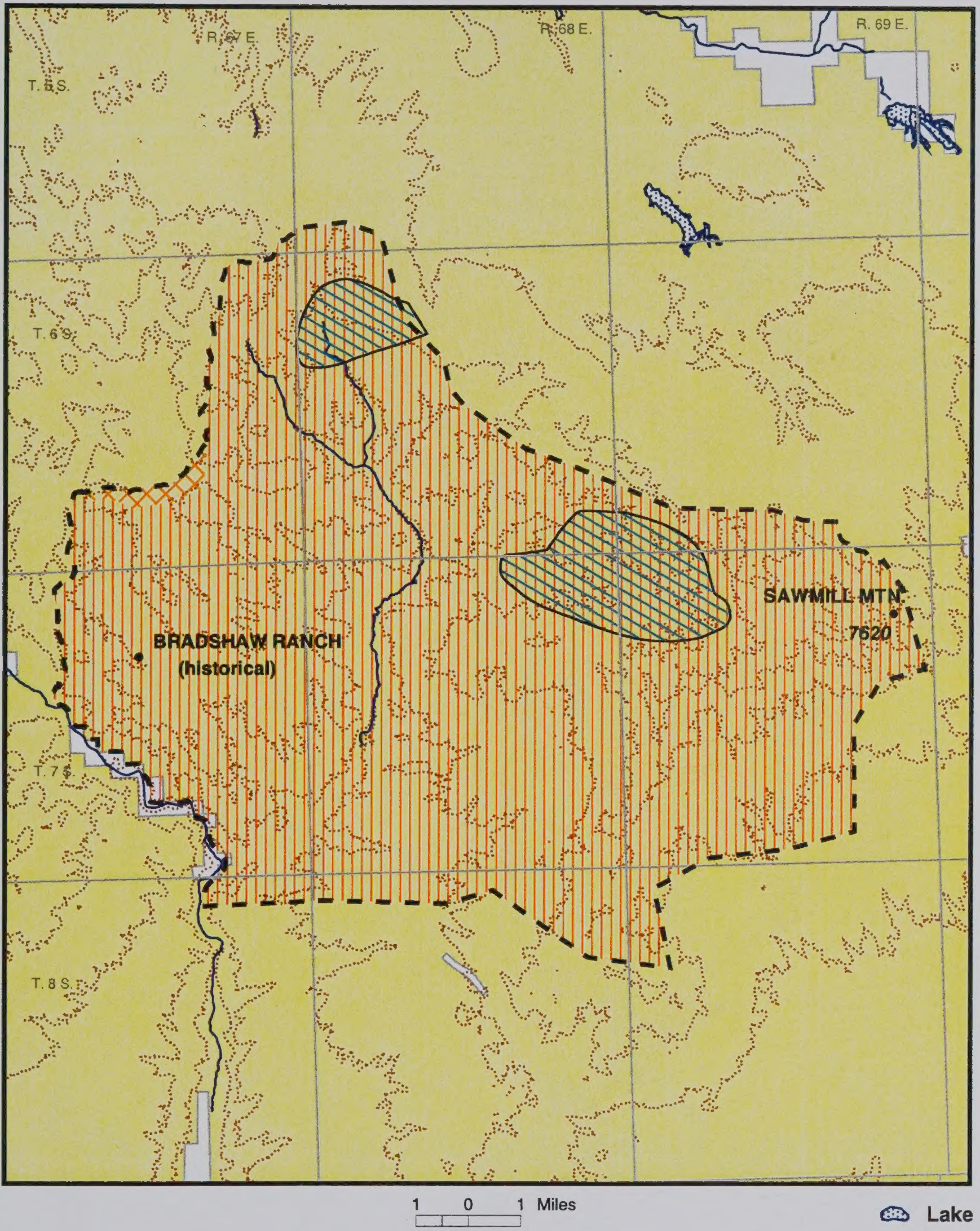
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R. 67 E.
R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
BRADSHAW RANCH
(historical)
SAWMILL MTN.
7620
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
NO MINING OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-139

10/25/2000

Clover Mountain Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R. 67 E.
R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
BRADSHAW RANCH
(historical)
SAWMILL MTN.
7620
1 0 1 Miles
Lake

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **Medium - Molybdenum**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

|||| **Recommended Suitable**

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

NV-050-139

MEADOW VALLEY RANGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 185,744 acres

The Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA), NV-050-156, is located in Lincoln County except for approximately two miles of the southernmost end located in Clark County. The south end of the WSA is about fifty-five miles northeast of Las Vegas. The WSA contains approximately 185,744 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management with no split estate or private or state inholdings.

The eastern WSA boundary is the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way, private lands, west edge of the County road or the centerline of the stream in the Meadow Valley Wash. This wash is also the western boundary of the Mormon Mountains WSA (NV-050-161). Along the north side of the Meadow Valley Range WSA, the boundary follows a jeep trail to Avertt Reservoir, then cross-country to another jeep trail on the northwestern-tip. The west boundary is a series of peak to peak lines and ridges along the base of the mountains until it comes to the Aerojet lands where it shares a common border. The southern boundary cuts cross-country until it reaches Dead Man's Wash, thence up this drainage, across its divide into Farrier Wash which it follows to its intersection with Meadow Valley Wash.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 97,180 acres recommended for wilderness
88,564 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate approximately 97,180 acres as wilderness and release approximately 88,564 acres for uses other than wilderness. The area recommended for wilderness designation is natural, provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, and provides better protection for solitude-dependent wildlife. The wilderness integrity of this area can be retained with minimal management because of the extremely rugged topography. Approximately thirty-four miles of jumbled, remote and extremely varied ridges stretch from one end of this area to the other precluding vehicular access. As a result, the area has remained very natural. Because of the area's size and precipitous topography along the western edge, solitude is outstanding. Steep cliffs, jagged peaks and hidden narrow canyons provide interesting places to explore. Conical buff-based Sunflower Mountain sits astride the main ridgeline, a visual focal point from great distances. The northernmost part of the area is forested with pinyon and juniper trees providing relief from continuous low desert shrub vegetation. This portion of the area also contains an attractive natural arch. Outstanding photographic opportunities exist, with grand vistas and animals such as bighorn sheep. Dayhiking, backpacking and hunting are good. Wilderness designation for this area would provide long-term protection for bighorn sheep and other solitude-dependent wildlife. Mining claims do exist just inside the western boundary of this area and in the northern toe. However, it is unlikely that these few claims would have development or production.

The 88,564 acres recommended for uses other than wilderness comprise the east half of the WSA generally below the 3,200 foot contour and the northeastern shoulder of the unit. This acreage is not recommended for wilderness in order to reduce some of the resource conflicts presently occurring and projected to occur within the WSA. This area also offers less than quality wilderness values of solitude and primitive recreational opportunities. These lands generally exhibit lower topographic diversity and lesser wilderness values. The southeastern end is an area of nondescript low hills, susceptible to ORV use. North of this area are the Bunker Hills, an area of moderate and outstanding disturbance at its terminus. Ways associated with this road where it crosses the bajada, portend a future ORV manageability problem. North of the Bunker Hills is a large bajada stretching two-thirds of the length of the WSA nearly to Hackberry Canyon. Wilderness values are mainly moderate and there is concern regarding ORV manageability should access be developed to this region. The lower end of Hackberry Canyon is not

recommended for wilderness because it is readily accessible from Meadow Valley Wash and is frequently used by hunters and the grazing allotment permittee. Along the unit's northeastern corner, the area drained by Vigo Wash has generally low relief and low wilderness values. It is presently crossed by numerous ways and will be difficult to manage without heavy patrol.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The 97,180 access recommended for wilderness are predominately natural with negligible human imprints except for the upper portions of the Vigo Canyon drainage. The Meadow Valley Mountains are very rugged and little used by man. Occasional vehicle tracks can be found in some of the washes along the west boundary, but are of little consequence. A cherrystem road services an old quarry and oil drill site in the Bunker Hills. Several ways are associated with this road.

The 88,564 acres recommended for nonwilderness do contain several human imprints including a number of ways which run for several miles in the large Vigo Canyon drainage. A corral exists in Hackberry Canyon and several quail guzzles are located near the western boundary of the WSA. This setting does not however, diminish the overall naturalness of the area.

B. Solitude: Within the area recommended for wilderness there are outstanding opportunities for solitude. The Meadow Valley Mountains are rugged and contain numerous small, narrow canyons, cliffs, peaks and rocky outcrops. On the central bajada topographic relief and vegetation are limited, but its vastness contributes to the solitude. Secluded spots are easily obtained in almost any portion of the recommended wilderness area and vistas of uninhabited, virtually empty space enhance the sense of solitude.

Some solitude is obtainable in the Bunker Hills portions not recommended for wilderness but screening is limited due to low hills and shallow washes. In Vigo and Hackberry Canyons, solitude can be readily obtained. Once out of Vigo Canyon and onto the lower relief lands of the upper drainage, solitude is more difficult to obtain because of the influence of the boundary road and the many ways which cross it. In the toe, the narrowness allows a greater influence of outside sights and sounds to impinge on solitude, but vegetative screening is better which compensates somewhat.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The area recommended for wilderness offers outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation experience. The long ridgeline offers numerous peaks, narrow canyons and passes. Sunflower Mountain is a focal point because its location, coloration, and texture contrast markedly with the surrounding terrain. Grapevine Spring on the west side also provides a destination for hikers on the way in or out of the WSA. On the east side, Hackberry and Vigo Canyons are good dayhiking areas.

Numerous loops and through routes are possible for backpackers. Routes mentioned for dayhiking could easily be expanded to longer trips. Climbing and scrambling are available in most of the recommended wilderness area. Limited climbing opportunities are available as well.

There area excellent opportunities for photography of desert bajadas and grand vistas. Bighorn sheep are also present and may present photographic opportunities. The WSA, is large and offers solitude and challenging hikes. It consequently has good opportunities for all types of primitive recreational usage.

4. MANAGEABILITY The 97,180 acres of the WSA recommended for wilderness can reasonably be managed as wilderness to preserve values now present in the area. There is a small area of mining claims on the extreme western periphery of the WSA. These are physically isolated from the WSA proper by virtue of their being on the western escarpment. The area is a solid block of public land with no private inholdings, state lands or right-of-way. Although opportunities exist for ORV travel within the WSA, these opportunities are limited to the major drainage bottoms of the precipitous Wild Cat Wash and Vigo and Hackberry Canyons rocky terrain limits ORV travel in other parts of the WSA.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines prepared a mineral assessment for the 97,180 acres of the Meadow Valley WSA recommended for wilderness. The survey was conducted from 1983 through 1986. According to the report, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1729-C, deposits of perlite crop out discontinuously at the base of volcanic slopes throughout the study area. Sand and gravel exist in significant quantities; consisting of alluvial deposits eroded from adjacent bedrock slopes.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 153 comments specifically addressing this WSA were received. Of those, 150 were written and 3 were oral statements received at the public hearing on the draft EIS. In general 138 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA. Fourteen commentors supported less wilderness for the Meadow Valley Range WSA.

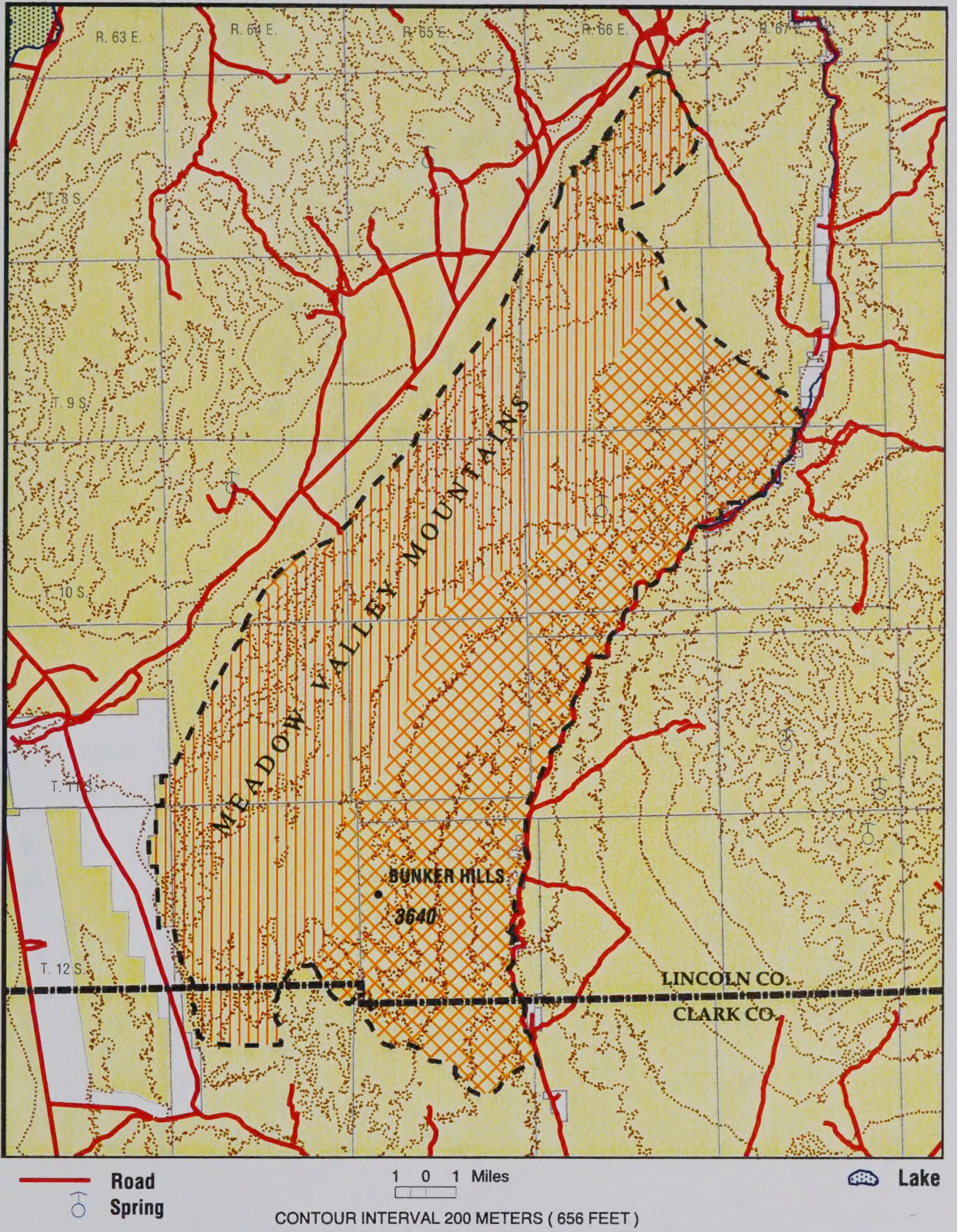
Most comments which specifically mentioned the WSA touch on high wilderness values (outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation). Comments opposing wilderness centered around the potential mineral resource values and potential mineral exploration development of the WSA.

County: Lincoln County did not respond. The Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning concurred with the recommended wilderness designation contained within the preferred alternative in the Clark Draft EIS.

State: The Governor of Nevada in his consistency letter, dated December 28, 1984, supported the partial alternative with the livestock development of lower Hackberry Canyon left out.

Federal: The U.S. Bureau of Mines suggested a boundary change to exclude the mining claims on the unit's western boundary. The U.S. Air Force would like to place two electronic packages on the main ridgeline even if the area is designated as wilderness and would like to continue use of the region for low level supersonic training. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observed that the criteria for selecting suitable verses nonsuitable wilderness areas for selecting verses nonsuitable wilderness areas was unclear in the DEIS. The major reasons can be attributed to mineral resources, management of ORV traffic and aesthetics. EPA recommends a evaluation of the WSA in the proposed action because of the speculative nature of the units mineral resources and the filling that the ORV use can be somewhat managed. EPA also stated that larger areas should be included in the partial wilderness alternative which area considered manageable. This suggestion is based on the DEIS's description of the WSA's with regard to mineral resources as well as the areas that are not affected by manmade features. Finally EPA states that the FEIS should discuss the recovery of the areas mineral resources in greater detail.

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP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T. 12 S.
MEADOW VALLEY MOUNTAINS
BUNKER HILLS
3640
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

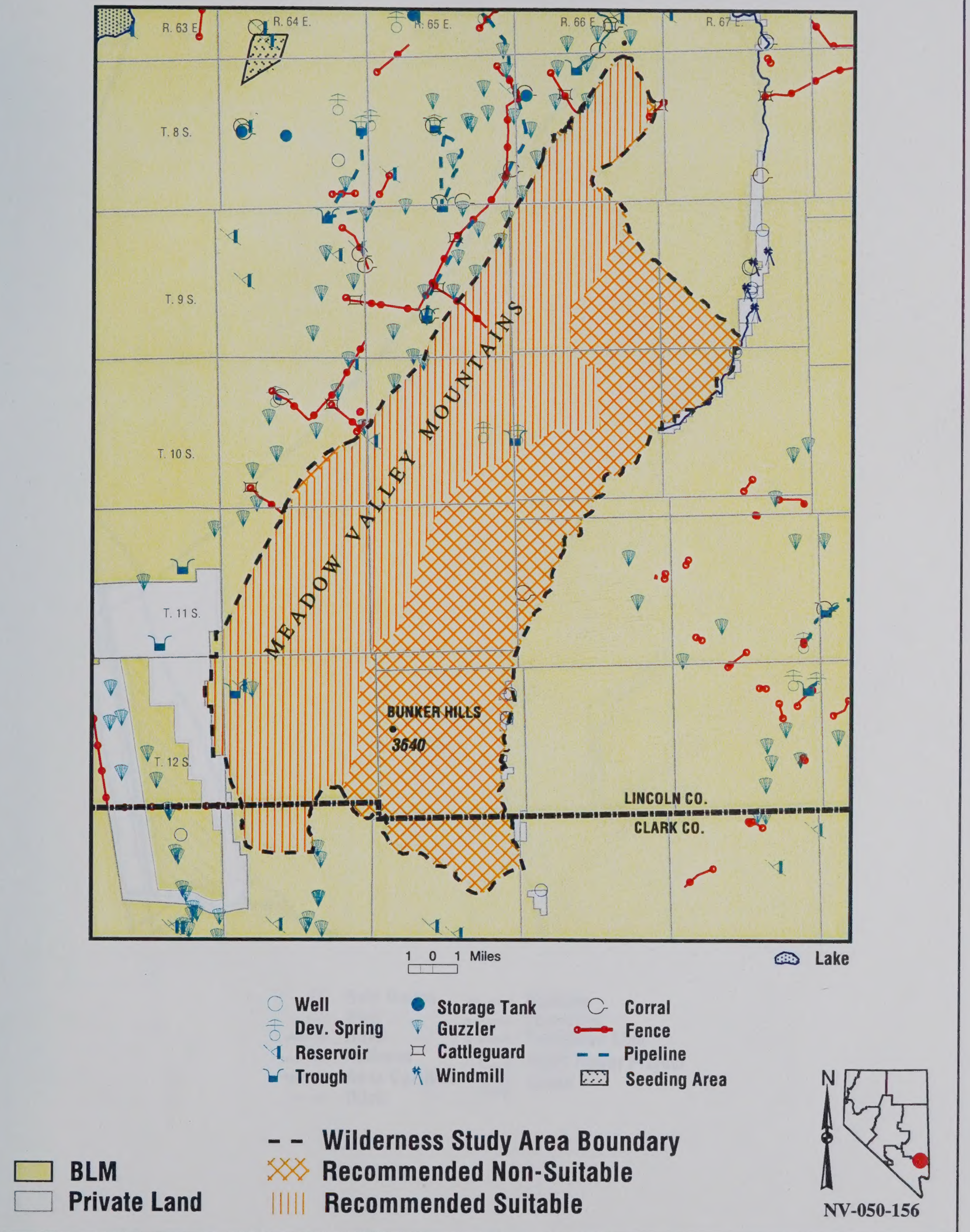
- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-050-156

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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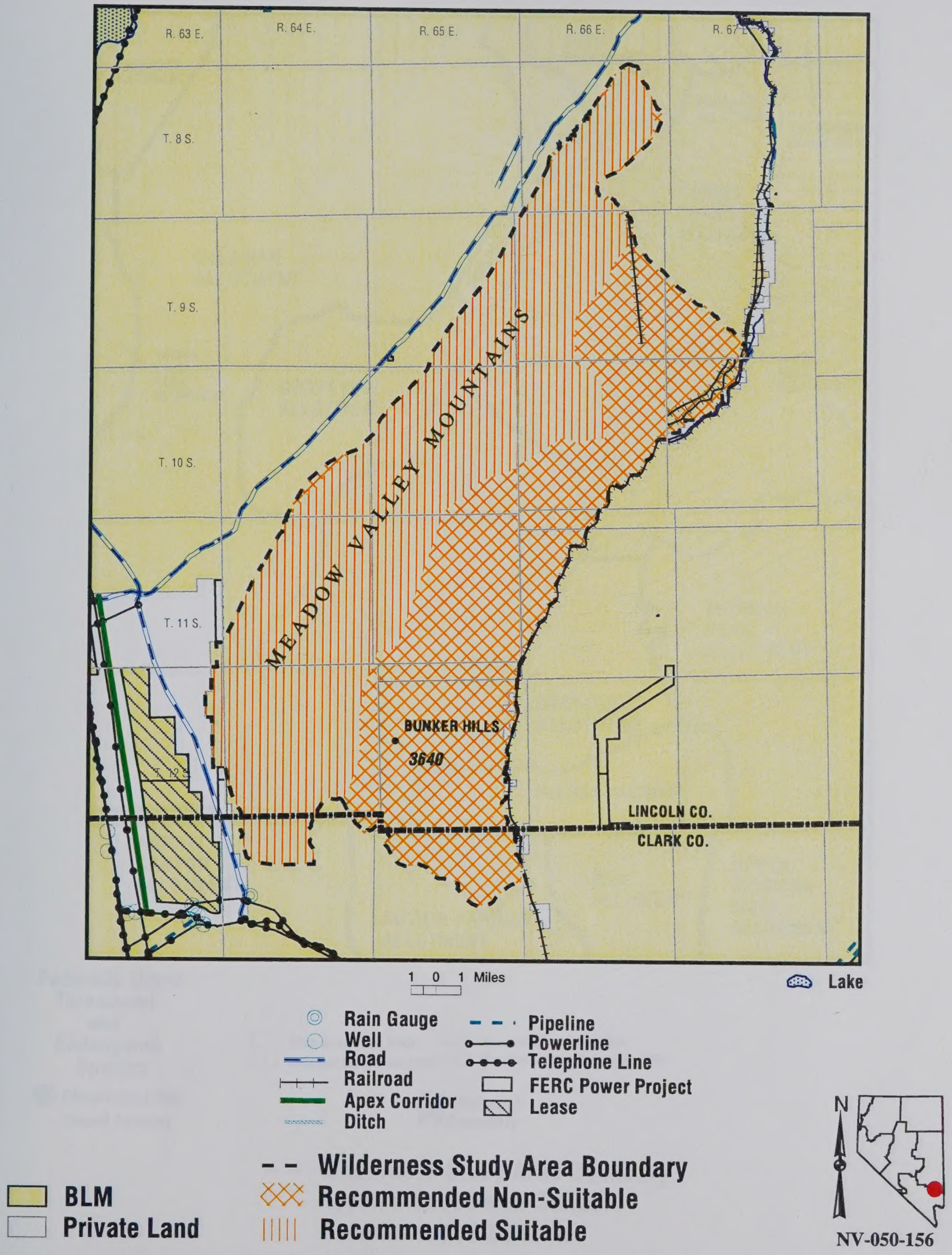
T. 12 S.
MEADOW VALLEY MOUNTAINS
BUNKER HILLS
3640
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Well
Dev. Spring
Reservoir
Trough
Storage Tank
Guzzler
Cattleguard
Windmill
Corral
Fence
Pipeline
Seeding Area
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-156

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY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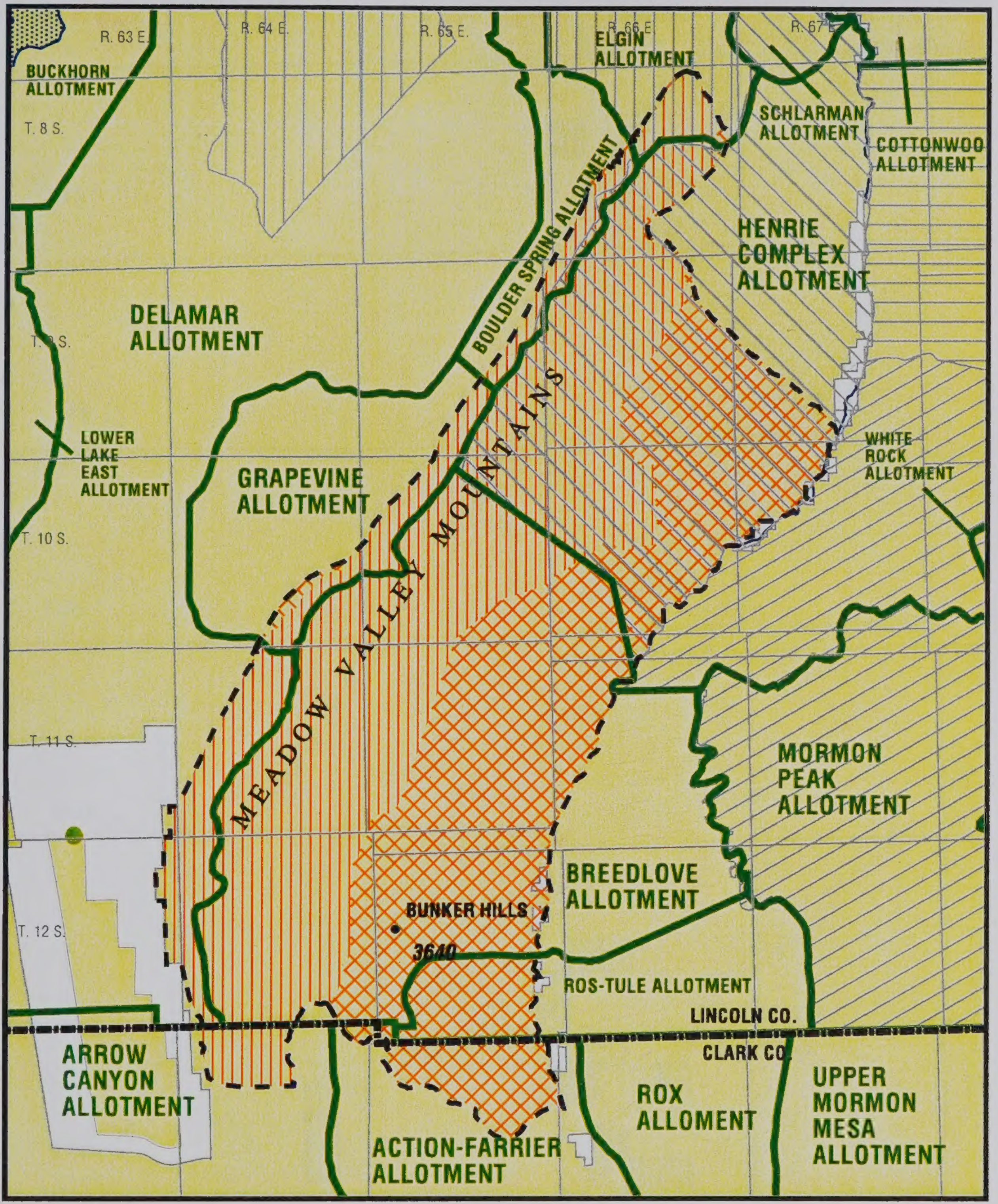
T. 12 S.
MEADOW VALLEY MOUNTAINS
BUNKER HILLS
3640
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Rain Gauge
Well
Road
Railroad
Apex Corridor
Ditch
Pipeline
Powerline
Telephone Line
FERC Power Project
Lease
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-156

10/25/2000

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES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T. 11 S.
T. 12 S.
BUCKHORN ALLOTMENT
ELGIN ALLOTMENT
SCHLARMAN ALLOTMENT
COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT
BOULDER SPRING ALLOTMENT
HENRIE COMPLEX ALLOTMENT
DELAMAR ALLOTMENT
LOWER LAKE EAST ALLOTMENT
GRAPEVINE ALLOTMENT
WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
MEADOW VALLEY MOUNTAINS
MORMON PEAK ALLOTMENT
BREEDLOVE ALLOTMENT
BUNKER HILLS
3640
ROS-TULE ALLOTMENT
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
ARROW CANYON ALLOTMENT
ROX ALLOMENT
UPPER MORMON MESA ALLOTMENT
ACTION-FARRIER ALLOTMENT

1 0 1 Miles

Lake

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

● Observation Site - Desert Tortoise

☐ Blue Nose Peak HMA
☐ Delamar Mountains HMA
▨ Mormon Mountains HMA
▧ Meadow Valley Mountains HMA

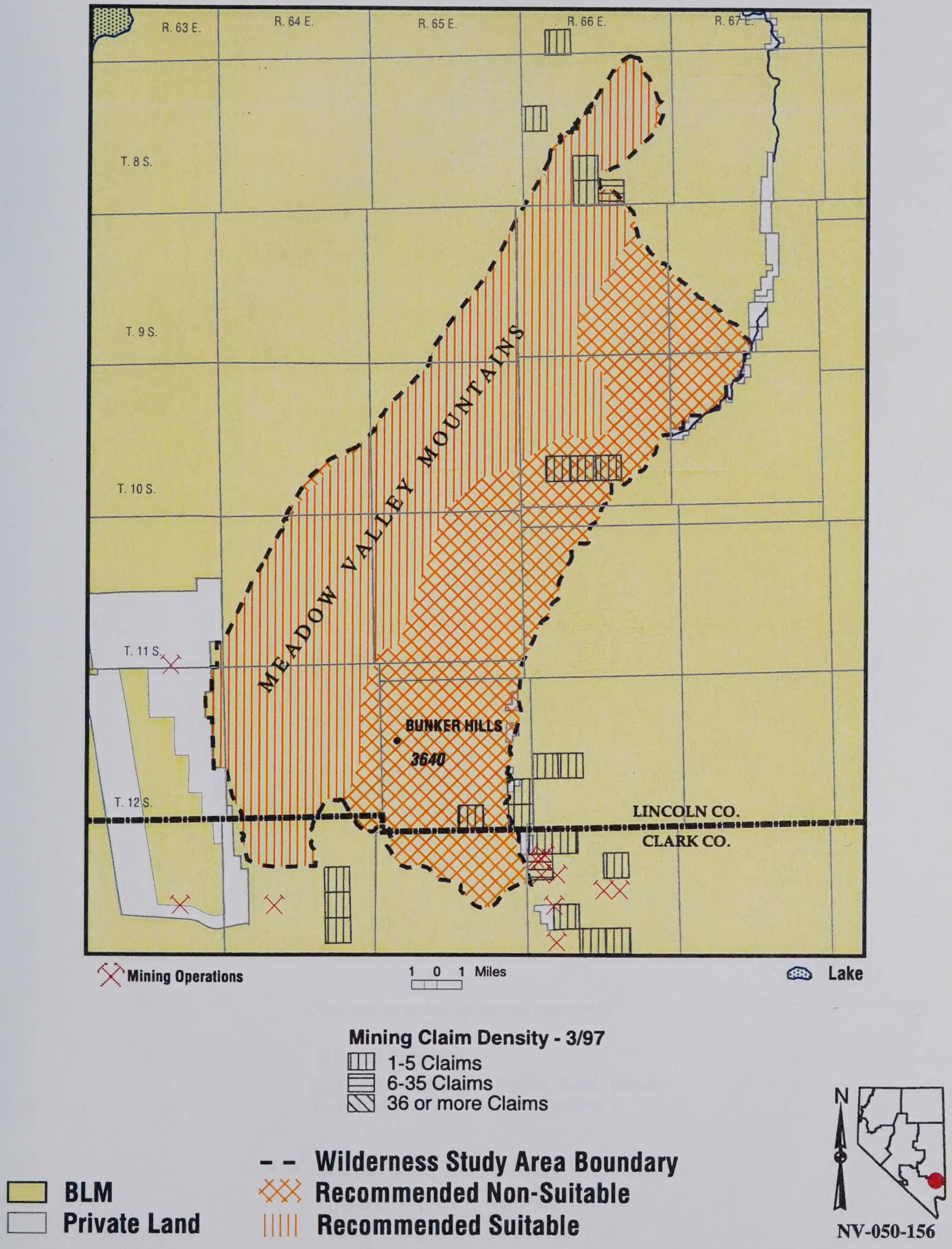
Allotment Boundary

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**
||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-050-156

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS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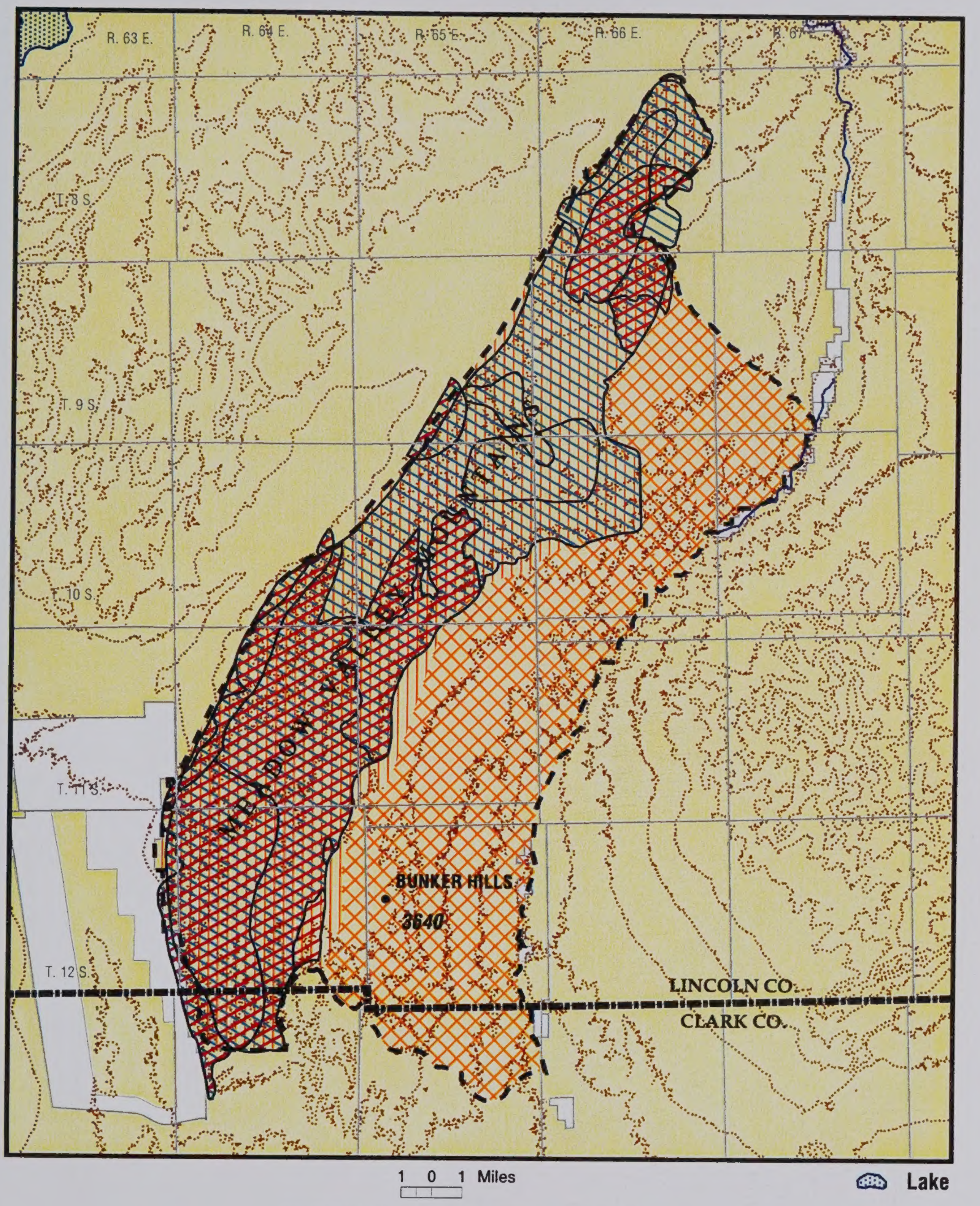
T. 11 S.
T. 12 S.
MEADOW VALLEY MOUNTAINS
BUNKER HILLS
3640
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles
Lake
Mining Claim Density - 3/97
1-5 Claims
6-35 Claims
36 or more Claims
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-156

10/25/2000

Meadow Valley Range Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL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T. 11 S.
T. 12 S.
MEADOW VALLEY MOUNTAINS
BUNKER HILLS
3640
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
1 0 1 Miles
Lake

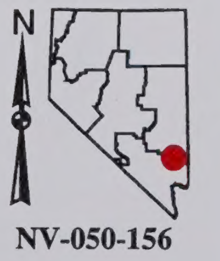
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **High - Limestone, Perlite, Sand, Gravel**
▨ **Medium - Oil, Gas, Tin, Zeolites**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
╳ Recommended Non-Suitable
||||| Recommended Suitable

▭ BLM
▭ Private Land



NV-050-156

MORMON MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 162,887 acres

The Mormon Mountains wilderness study area (WSA), NV-050-161, is located approximately 75 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The WSA contains the entire Mormon Mountains Range and is located in southeastern Lincoln County, Nevada, with a small portion of the WSA in northern Clark County. The WSA contains 162,887 acres of public land with no private inholdings (Table 1). The Mormon Mountains WSA is a large contiguous block of public land, surrounded on all sides by public land.

The study area configuration is generally rounded in shape, approximately 18 miles across on the east-west axis and approximately 30 miles across the north-south axis. The study unit is bound by the Carp-Elgin Road on the north and east; Meadow Valley Wash Road and Union Pacific Railroad on the west; and, a hunting access road/seismic "thumper" trail on the south. Several short roads on the east side of the WSA are cherrystemmed and two cherrystemmed roads extend into the heart of the WSA. One six mile cherrystemmed road leads to an area of fairly recent mineral interest on the west side of the study area. One way, in the bottom of an active wash, extends nearly 9 miles into the heart of the study area to a large wildlife water development. Another way, on the east side, extends several miles to a spring development for livestock use.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 123,130 acres recommended for wilderness
39,757 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate approximately 123,130 acres as wilderness and release 39,757 acres for uses other than wilderness. BLM has carefully weighed existing and potential resources present in the WSA to develop the recommendation for the Mormon Mountain WSA. The configuration arrived at preserves areas of high wilderness and primitive recreation values while excluding large areas of bajadas which, although possessing wilderness and primitive recreation values, are not exceptional. At the same time, it also preserves substantial bajada areas which can be managed readily over the long term. The Bureau has been criticized for failing to recommend bajadas as suitable. These recommendations have occurred because bajadas are usually readily accessible to motor vehicles and have been impacted or are difficult to manage over the long term. The chief potential conflict within the area recommended for wilderness is between possible mineralization on one hand, and wilderness, wildlife, primitive recreation, scenic values and speleological resources on the other hand. A large population of bighorn sheep, mule deer and raptors provide wildlife observation opportunities. Caves and significant cultural resources comprise some of the more important special features present.

Visually, the WSA is spectacular. Taken alone, the ragged-topped dome flanked by Moapa Peak and the East Mormon Mountains, is extremely rewarding. Added to these beautiful crags are massive cliffs, some overhung, which accentuate the peaks. Colors range from cliffs slashed by purple-brown and gray bands to brownish-orange peaks and reddish outcrops. Spires, fins and egg-shaped peaks attract both eye and camera. Yuccas, agaves, Joshua trees, pinyon pine and a relic stand of ponderosa pine provide contrast and variety.

Removal of the southwestern bajada from the lands preliminarily recommended for wilderness designation resolves potential manageability problems with regard to the large block of mining claims located on a portion of it and with ORV access from two long ways which traverse it. Boundaries, for the portion of the study area recommended for wilderness designation, are easily identifiable and will preclude the majority of management concerns for the area recommended for wilderness.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: Approximately fifty to sixty percent of the WSA is unaffected by manmade features. Most roads, ways, water developments, mines and mining disturbances around the WSA have been technically excluded by cherrystemming. Deep canyons and broken terrain limit the influence of these intrusions to the area adjacent to them. Numerous small quail guzzlers dot the lower elevations and three large big game guzzlers have been installed on the north side towards the higher elevations.

B. Solitude: The Mormon Mountains WSA contains outstanding opportunities for solitude. Much of the WSA consists of extremely rugged mountain peaks, rising 5,300 feet above the desert, large cliffs, deep canyons, numerous drainages, caves and difficult to reach bajadas. Majestic vistas of surrounding deserts, mountains and valleys enhance the feeling of solitude. Broken terrain isolates ridges and valleys from each other thus making activity nearly undetectable in the next one. Good vegetative screening above 5,000 feet also aids in obtaining solitude.

Most of the WSA is far removed from outside influences, however, military aircraft flights do destroy the stillness of the experience needed for solitude. Secluded spots are easily locatable in all areas of the WSA due to the sheer size of the WSA. The best areas are found in the core area.

C. Primitive and Undefined Recreation: The Mormon Mountains WSA with its large size, diverse terrain, wildlife and vegetation offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. Various dayhikes are available in conjunction with the cherrystem access routes, and others could be undertaken off the numerous peripheral roads adjacent to the WSA. The majority of the study area offers challenging and scenic hiking opportunities.

Destination hiking and backpacking opportunities, as well as rockclimbing and mountain climbing are available throughout a large portion of the WSA. Hunting for bighorn sheep and small game are popular in the WSA. The main mountain area offers beautiful big country vistas, fossils and bighorn sheep, providing exceptional opportunities for wildlife and nature photography. Lower areas offer abundant cultural resources, particularly in the vicinity of springs. The central escarpment of the WSA is well known as a scrambling, hiking, and climbing area. Mormon Peak, Moapa Peak and other unnamed peaks within the range are all well known desert climbs with 500 foot to l,000 foot cliffs and offer an outstanding desert climbing experience. There are outstanding caving opportunities within the limestone peaks, walls, and canyons of the Mormon Mountains. Spectacular caves abound in the area and offer challenging opportunities to the user.

4. MANAGEABILITY: The area could be managed as wilderness. The biggest management challenge would be controlling motorized vehicle usage. There are several major washes aside from the cherrystem roads, which allow access into the area. The terrain along the periphery makes it accessible to vehicles. There are numerous tracks throughout the southwestern and southern areas, and control would be very difficult at best. The majority of the area does not have any problems from vehicles due to its very precipitous terrain. The entire WSA is composed of public land, with no encumbrances of record. The WSA is bordered on the west side by Union Pacific Railroad (200 foot wide, CC-06192) and WSA 0156 Meadow Valley.

Approximately 11,500 acres (or 7.1 percent of the WSA) are covered by post-FLPMA mining claims. Only two pre-FLPMA lode mining claims exist (41.3 acres, part of which is a cherrystem). Other claims have been located but are presently abandoned. Historic mining or production is unknown.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

Occurrences of commercial grade limestone of undetermined extent and minor deposits of sand were found. Portions of the area studied have high mineral resource potential for copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold, arsenic and antimony. Part has moderate potential for antimony. Two areas have moderate potential for tungsten, molybdenum and/or tine. The remainder has low resource potential for all metals. The area studied has moderate resource potential for oil and gas, except for areas which have had significant hydrothermal activity. It has low resource potential for manganese, barite,vermiculite, coal and geothermal.

The following minerals appear on the National Defense Stockpile List of Strategic and Critical Materials and have been found in anomalous amount in the Mormon Mountains: antimony, cooper, lead, silver, tin, zinc, tungsten and molybdenum.

Economic or subeconomic locatable resource values are not known to exist within this WSA. Hypothetical undiscovered resources of gypsum in unknown amounts are located in an identified area east of Carp. The inferred hypothetical gypsum prospect is less significant than several other gypsum prospects in the Caliente planning Unit. Undiscovered manganese, zinc, and tungsten (strategic listed minerals) may occur within this WSA, since these minerals occur in similar areas in the range immediately to the east.

No known leasable mineral values exist in the Mormon Mountain wilderness study area. No documented occurrences of oil, gas, or geothermal resources are known, although, the entire WSA is under oil and gas lease.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public interest in the WSA is high due to relative ease of access to the Las Vegas metropolitan area from Interstate 15 and to its abundant resources. During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 162 comments specifically addressing this WSA were received. Of those, 158 were written and 4 were oral statements received at the public hearing on the draft EIS. In the Draft EIS only 23,690 acres of the study area was preliminarily recommended suitable for wilderness designation. An overwhelming majority of respondents, 160 (98.8%) of the 162 comments received supported wilderness designation for part or all of the study area. Of those, 156 recommended more wilderness than the DEIS Preferred Alternative. Only two commentors recommended no wilderness for this study area.

County: Lincoln County did not respond. The Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning concurred with the recommended wilderness designation contained within the preferred alternative in the Clark Draft EIS.

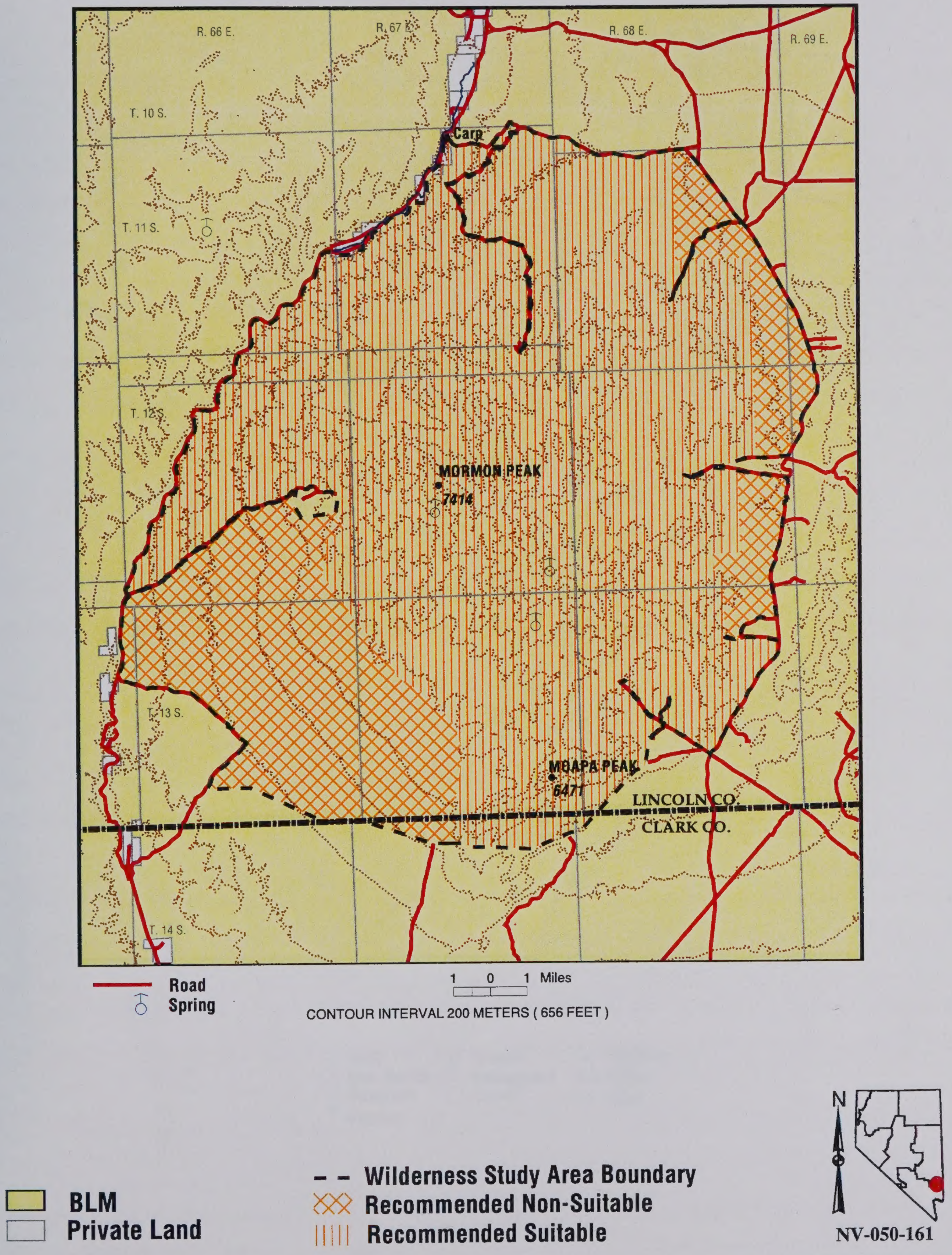
State: The Governor of Nevada in his consistency letter, dated December 28, 1984, did not address the Mormon Mountain WSA. During the State's review of the Preliminary Draft EIS the Governor recommended 23,690 acres for wilderness designation. The state clearinghouse has indicated it opposes the larger wilderness recommendation contained in the Final EIS and this report due to mineral potentials.

Federal: The U.S. Bureau of Mines recommended against wilderness designation for any portion of the Mormon Mountains WSA. The U.S. Air Force identified potential conflicts with continued use of the airspace over the Mormon Mountains WSA for military training and installation of electronic monitoring and tracking devices within the WSA. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observed that the criteria for selecting suitable versus nonsuitable wilderness areas was unclear in the DEIS. Finally EPA stated the FEIS should discuss the recovery of the area's mineral resources in greater detail.

10/25/2000

Mormon Mountains Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP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R. 68 E.
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T. 10 S.
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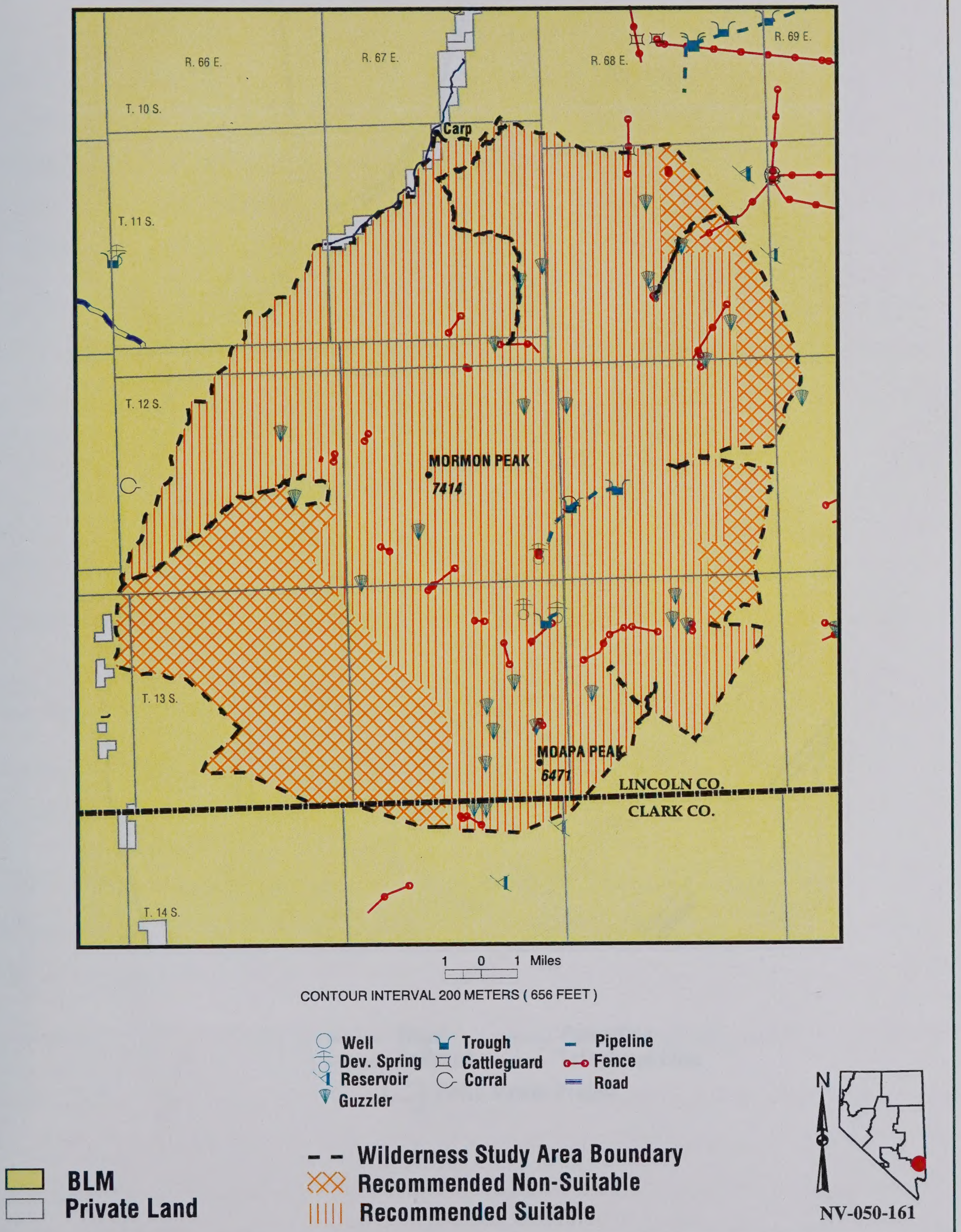
T. 12 S.
T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.
Carp
MORMON PEAK
7414
MOAPA PEAK
6471
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
BLM
Private Land
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-050-161

10/25/2000

Mormon Mountains Wilderness Study Area
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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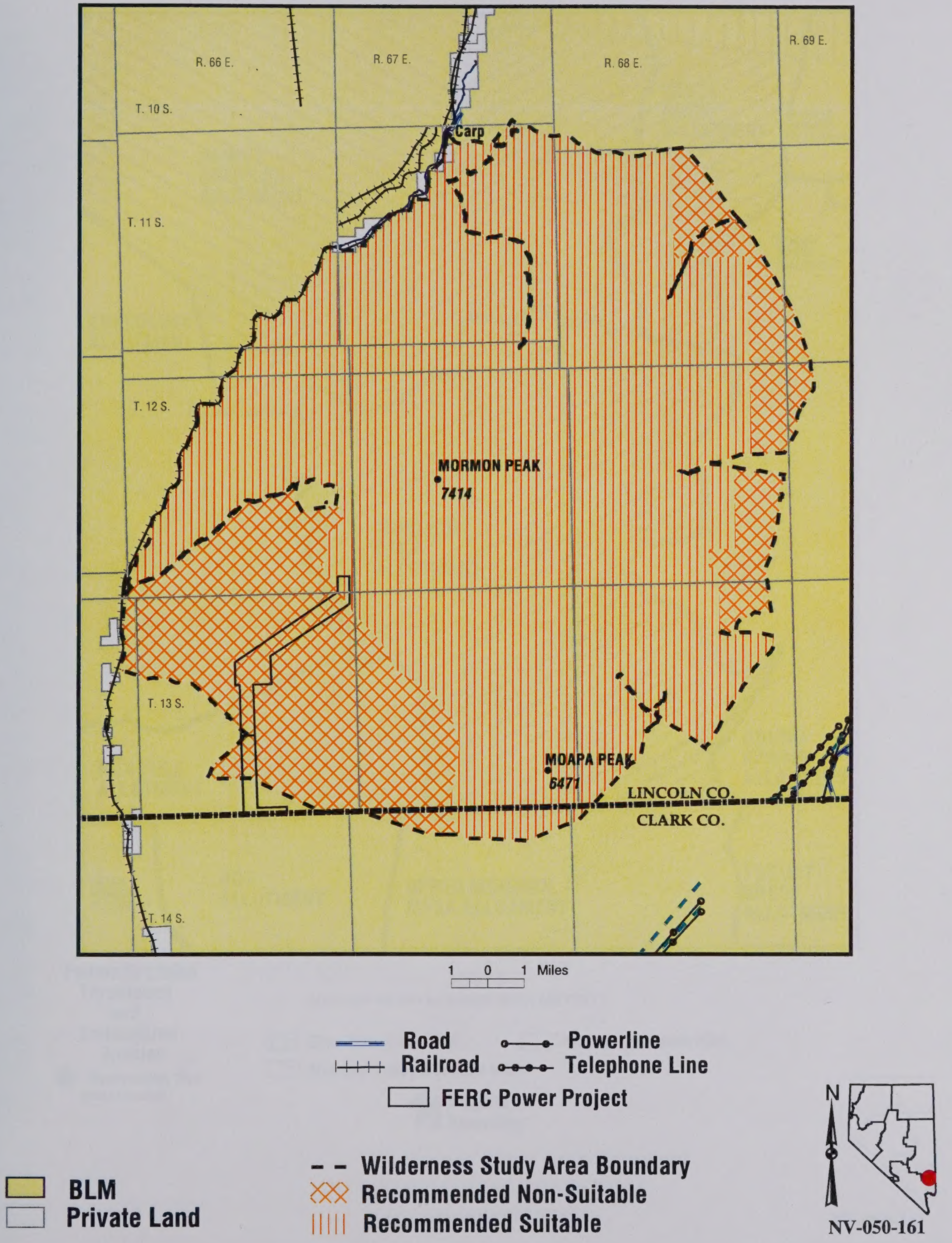
T. 14 S.
Carp
MORMON PEAK
7414
MOAPA PEAK
6471
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Well
Dev. Spring
Reservoir
Guzzler
Trough
Cattleguard
Corral
Pipeline
Fence
Road
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-161

Mormon Mountains Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY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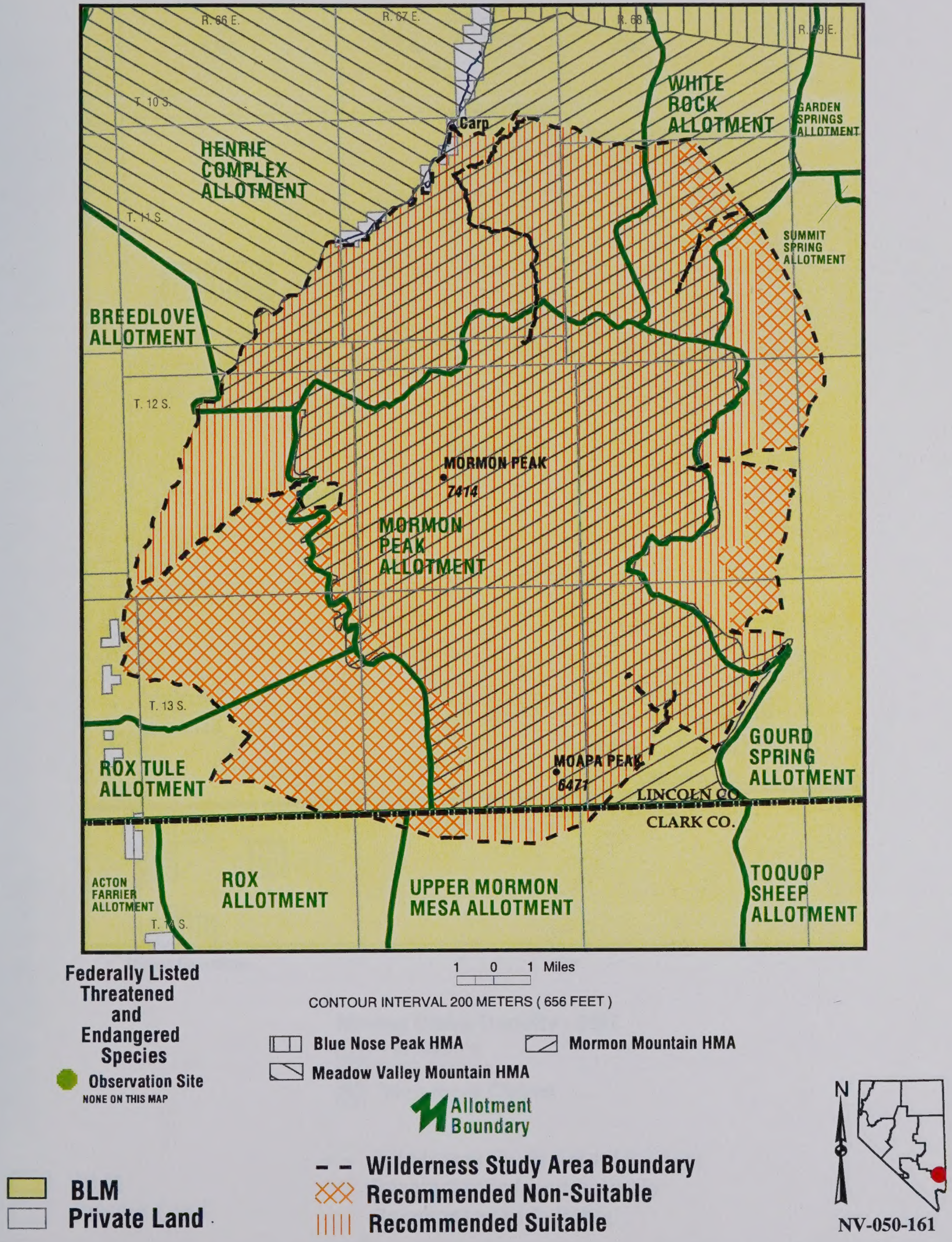
T. 14 S.
Carp
MORMON PEAK
7414
MOAPA PEAK
6471
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
1 0 1 Miles
Road
Railroad
Powerline
Telephone Line
FERC Power Project
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-161

Mormon Mountains Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES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R. 68 E.
R. 69 E.
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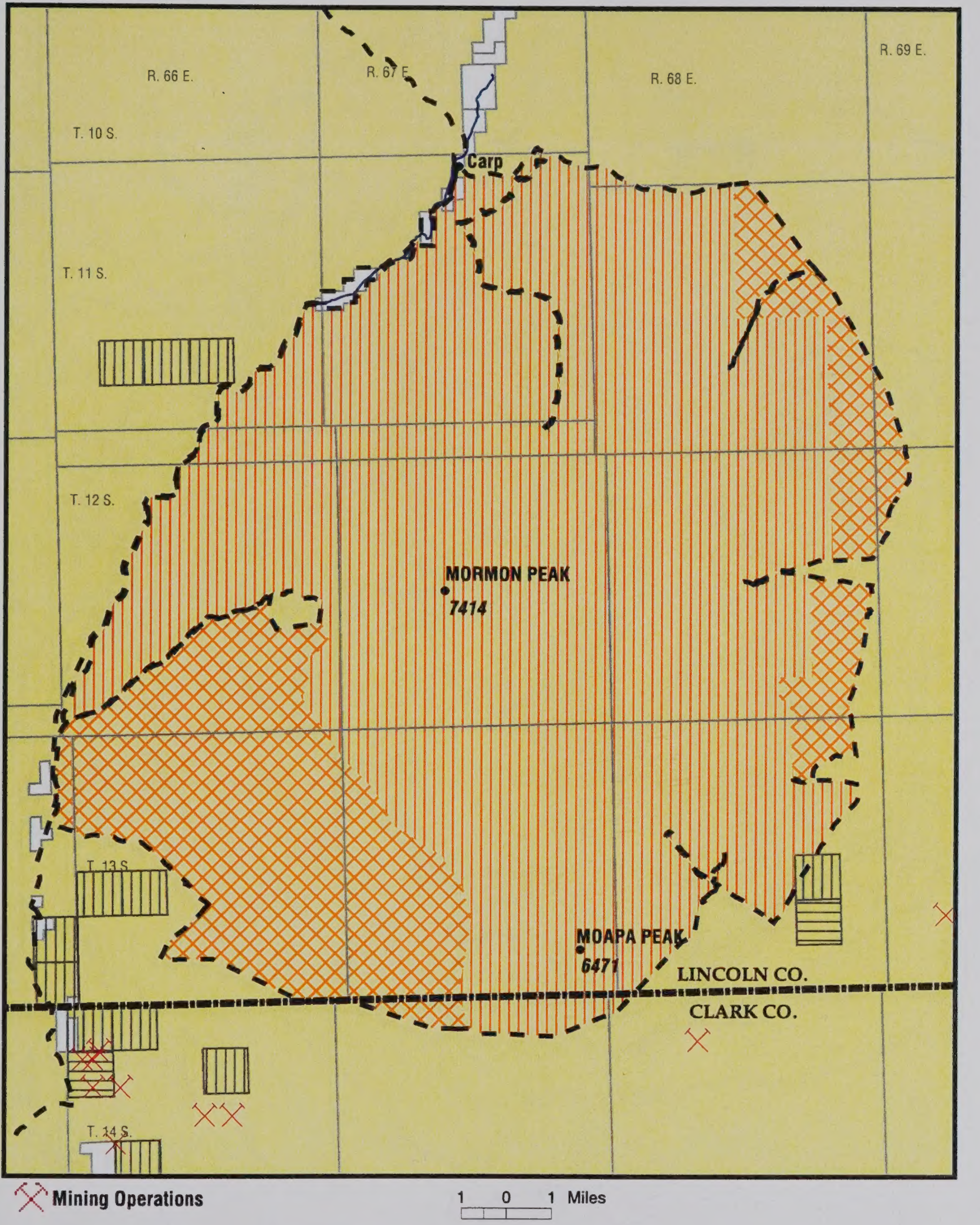
T. 11 S.
T. 12 S.
T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.
Carp
HENRIE COMPLEX ALLOTMENT
WHITE ROCK ALLOTMENT
GARDEN SPRINGS ALLOTMENT
SUMMIT SPRING ALLOTMENT
BREEDLOVE ALLOTMENT
MORMON PEAK
7414
MORMON PEAK ALLOTMENT
MOAPA PEAK
6471
ROX TULE ALLOTMENT
GOURD SPRING ALLOTMENT
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
ACTON FARRIER ALLOTMENT
ROX ALLOTMENT
UPPER MORMON MESA ALLOTMENT
TOQUOP SHEEP ALLOTMENT
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Blue Nose Peak HMA
Mormon Mountain HMA
Meadow Valley Mountain HMA
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
BLM
Private Land
N
NV-050-161

10/25/2000

Mormon Mountains Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS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T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.
Carp
MORMON PEAK
7414
MOAPA PEAK
6471
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
Mining Operations
1 0 1 Miles

Mining Claim Density - 3/97

- ▥ 1-5 Claims
- ▤ 6-35 Claims
- ▧ 36 or more Claims

- 🟨 **BLM**
- ☐ **Private Land**

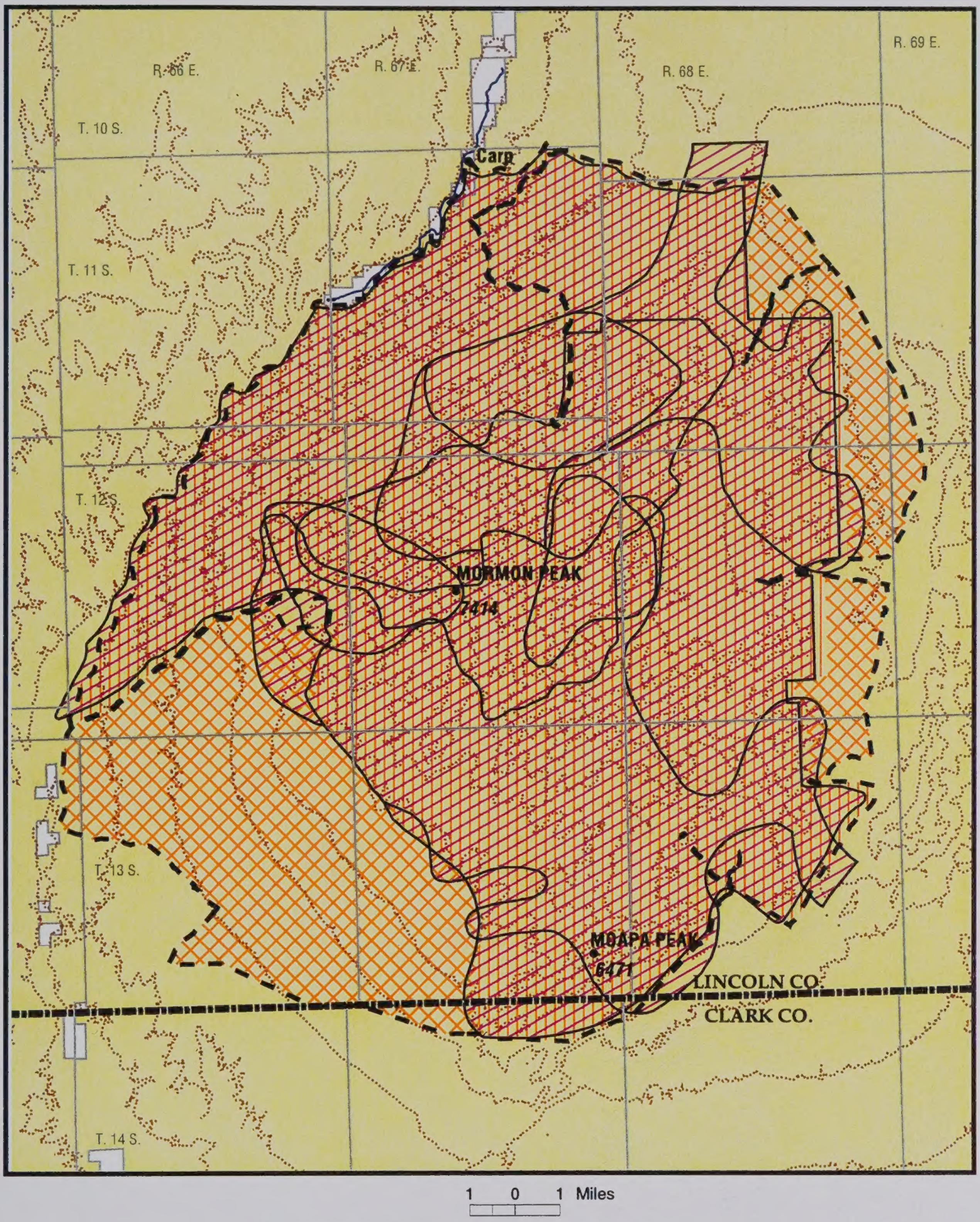
- **- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
- **⨯⨯⨯ Recommended Non-Suitable**
- **||||| Recommended Suitable**

NV-050-161

10/25/2000

Mormon Mountains Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL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T. 11 S.
T. 12 S.
T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.
Carp
MORMON PEAK
7414
MOAPA PEAK
6471
LINCOLN CO.
CLARK CO.
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Mineral Potential

▨ **High - Gold, Silver, Lead, Copper, Zinc**

🟨 **BLM**

☐ **Private Land**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**

XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**

||||| **Recommended Suitable**

NV-050-161

TUNNEL SPRING WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 15,968 acres

The Tunnel Spring WSA (NV-050-166, UT-040-123) is in northwestern Washington County, Utah, and northeastern Lincoln County, Nevada. The WSA includes 10,568 acres of public land in Utah (Cougar Canyon WSA) and 5,400 acres in Nevada. No State, private, or split estate lands are included. In Utah, the study area is bordered on the north and northeast by the Dixie National Forest. In Nevada, the WSA is adjacent to public lands and Beaver Dam State Park on the southwest.

The WSA consists of steep, mountainous canyons, long ridges, and rough drainages. Various kinds of volcanic rocks predominate. The area is at the head of Beaver Dam Wash, and elevations range from 5,000 to 6,700 feet. Seven miles of perennial streams, six undeveloped springs, and one undeveloped spring are in the WSA. Vegetation is mostly pinyon-juniper and sagebrush. The climate is semiarid, with cold winters and warm summers.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 6,408 acres recommended for wilderness
9,560 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 6,408 acres as wilderness and release 9,560 acres for uses other than wilderness. The recommendation differs from the proposed action listed in the Draft EIS. Public support for some wilderness designation of this WSA received during review of the Draft EIS prompted BLM to re-evaluate this area. This led to the development of the partial wilderness alternative which is now the proposed action in the Final EIS and the recommendation of this report.

The area recommended for wilderness designation includes all of the area with outstanding opportunities for solitude (1,300 acres) and primitive recreation (400 acres) and all of the highest visual qualities (5,400 acres). Cougars and a variety of raptors frequent the area. Rainbow trout, which are rare elsewhere in the vicinity, inhabit the streams. No conflicts exist with other uses.

The area recommended is mostly the northeastern portion of the WSA and includes about 4,228 acres in Washington County, Utah, and 2,180 acres in Lincoln County, Nevada. The boundary is along section and sub-section lines that enclose the portion with the highest wilderness values.

In the northwestern part of the WSA, not recommended for wilderness designation, there are no outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation, visual aspects are common, and diversity of terrain and vegetation is limited. The southern portion of the WSA lacks diversity and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The entire WSA meets Wilderness Act criteria for naturalness. Human intrusion that existed when the WSA was identified included six miles of range fences, one small tree and shrub planting in 1971 at Tunnel Springs (Nevada portion) for erosion control, and one exclosure at Middle Ridge in the south end of the WSA for grazing studies. More recently, a total of about one acre in the WSA has been disturbed by one spring development and one half mile of fence. All of these disturbances have been reclaimed to a substantially unnoticeable condition.

B. Solitude: About 1,300 acres, all in the area recommended for wilderness designation, meet the criteria

for outstanding opportunities for solitude. The tributaries and main canyons of the Pine Park-Split Pine Hollow, the tributaries and outcrops in the south rim of Pine Park Canyon, and the lower portion of Sheep Corral Canyon all provide topographic and vegetative screening of high quality.

The remaining 14,668 acres of the WSA do not meet the standards for outstanding solitude. The size and configuration of the WSA neither enhance nor lessen opportunities for solitude and many of the canyons are too shallow or wide to provide topographic screening.

The WSA is near the flight path for military aircraft from Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas. Subsonic flights by 4 aircraft at a time occur over the WSA as low as 100 feet above ground level, two or three times a week. Noise from the overflights detracts from solitude in the WSA.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Only 400 acres, in the northern and eastern parts of the WSA, provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. These areas, Pine Park Canyon and the eastern portion of Sheep Corral Canyon, are easily accessible from the Dixie National Forest Pine Park Campground and provide excellent hiking in conjunction with opportunities for scenic viewing, fishing, bird watching, wading, picnicking, and photography. These areas are too rugged for horseback riding however, and are not ideal for big game hunting because of rough terrain.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding in the remaining 15,568 acres (97 percent of the WSA). Dixie National Forest and Beaver Dam State Park, east and west of the WSA respectively, are relatively heavily used for recreation but few people enter the WSA, perhaps because of the rugged terrain and an assumption that it lacks recreational opportunities.

D. Special Features: Five to seven miles of streams in the WSA support trout fisheries, which are unusual in BLM lands in the surrounding desert region. These fisheries are in perennial waters in Beaver Dam Wash and are the only native reproducing fisheries in the area.

Candidate threatened or endangered species include the Virgin River spinedace which, with the speckled dace and desert sucker, may inhabit Beaver Dam Creek and its tributaries. The ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, southern spotted owl, long-billed curlew, mountain plover, western snowy plover, western yellow-billed cuckoo, white-faced ibis, Arizona Bell's vireo, and Merriam's kangaroo rat are also resident species.

4. MANAGEABILITY Tunnel Spring WSA can reasonably be managed as wilderness to preserve values present. The WSA is rugged, relatively remote, and currently has only low to moderate recreational use (500 annual visitor days, of which 125 are vehicular). No ways penetrate the WSA, vegetation is too sparse to provide woodland products, and mineral-related conflicts are unlikely. Livestock grazing could continue in accordance with the applicable BLM land use plans. Wilderness designation would strengthen current management efforts to protect the Beaver Dam watershed and provide wildlife habitat. Military overflights may continue, depending on Air Force needs and decisions. If the flights continue, the resulting distraction could not be mitigated by BLM administrative actions.

The 9,560 acre portion not recommended for wilderness designation would continue to be managed under applicable BLM plans. No change in management is anticipated if the area is released from wilderness study status. Current plans propose watershed and wildlife habitat improvements, keeping the area open for off road vehicle use, and maintaining 1,088 acres as public water reserves.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

The WSA is composed of volcanic rocks which are thought to be relatively thick. Because significant mineral resources are rarely found in volcanic rocks and because of the absence of mineral production and

past interest in the area, there is little likelihood that any mineral resources exist in the WSA or that mineral-related activity will occur.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 57 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received, including 17 oral statements received at public hearings on the EIS. In general, 59 commentors supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, 10 were opposed, and 5 commentors addressed the relative merits of the EIS, but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

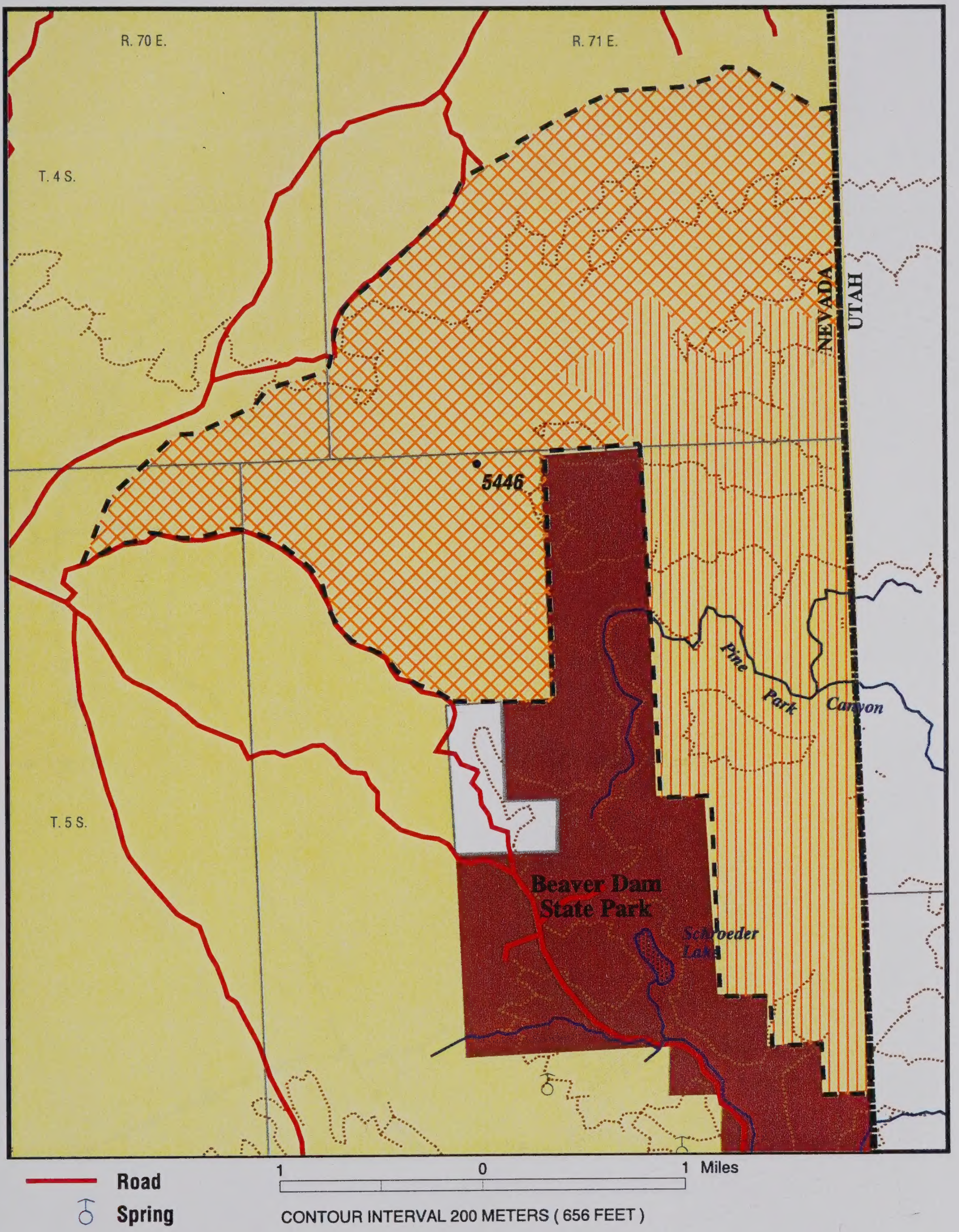
Those favoring wilderness commented on the special features in the WSA and the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat that wilderness designation would offer. The majority of those commenting were from other states. Those opposing wilderness did not have a consensus opinion. The majority were from rural Utah.

One Federal agency and the State of Utah commented on the draft EIS. Neither favored a particular alternative.

The Washington County Commission (Utah) opposes wilderness designation for this WSA.

10/25/2000

Tunnel Spring Wilderness Study Area
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R. 70 E.
R. 71 E.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
5446
NEVADA
UTAH
Pine Park Canyon
Beaver Dam State Park
Schroeder Lake
Road
Spring
1
0
1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

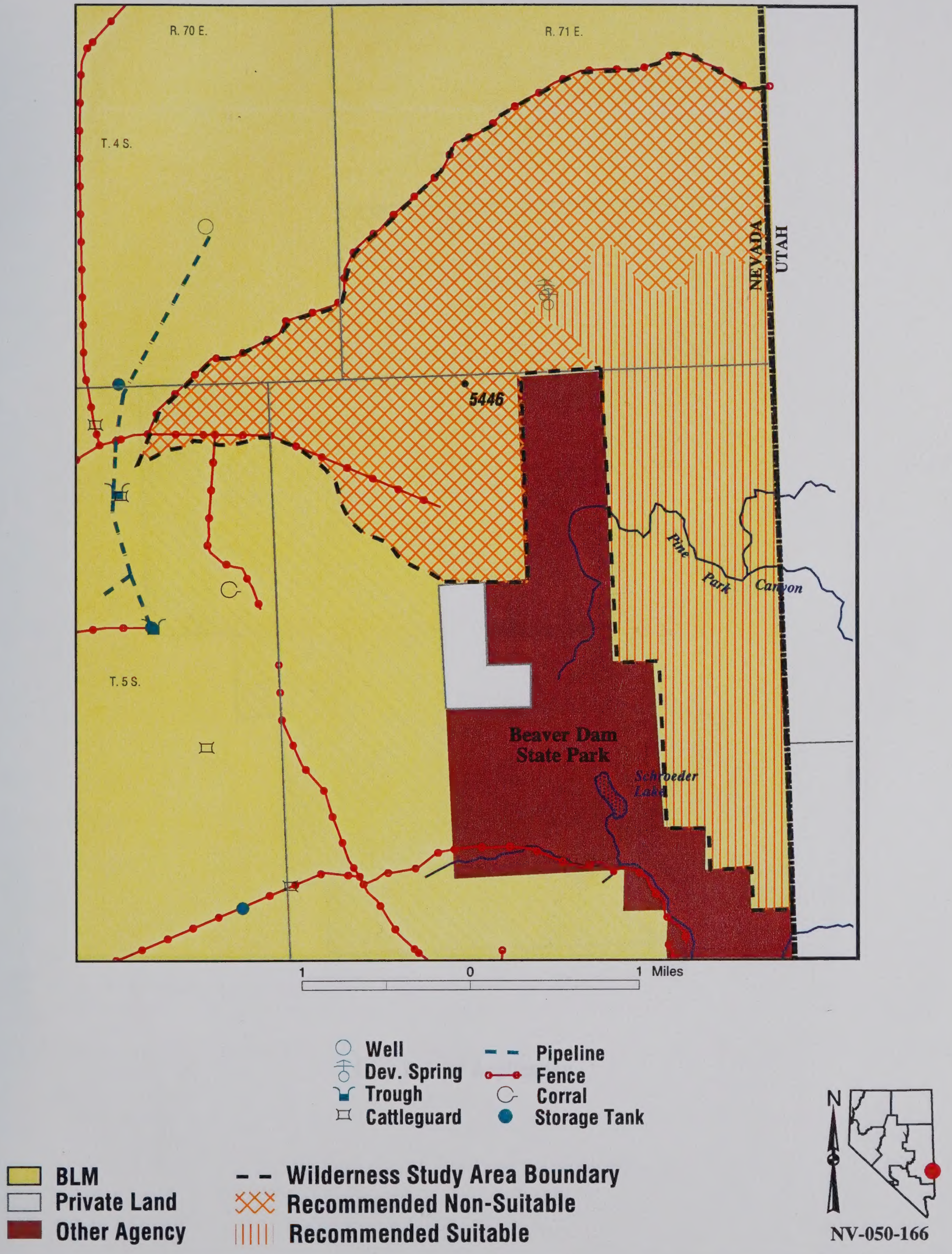
🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable
|||| Recommended Suitable

NV-050-166

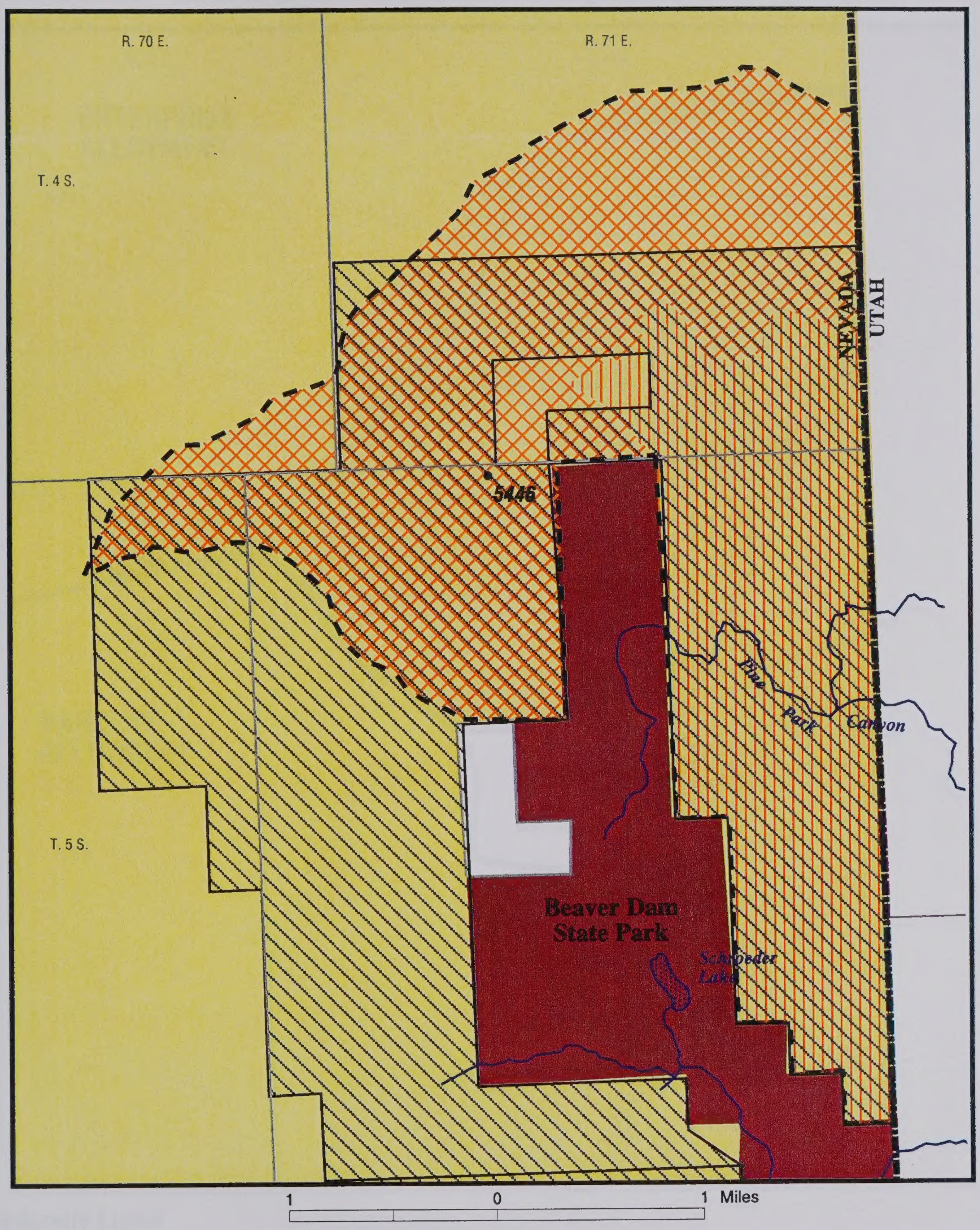
10/25/2000

Tunnel Spring Wilderness Study Area
DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES


R. 70 E.
R. 71 E.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
5446
NEVADA
UTAH
Pine Park Canyon
Beaver Dam State Park
Schroeder Lake
1 0 1 Miles
Well
Dev. Spring
Trough
Cattleguard
Pipeline
Fence
Corral
Storage Tank
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-050-166

Tunnel Spring Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R. 70 E.
R. 71 E.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
NEVADA
UTAH
5446
Blue Park Canyon
Beaver Dam State Park
Schroeder Lake
1
0
1 Miles

▨ R & PP Application

🟨 BLM

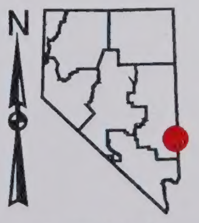
☐ Private Land

🟥 Other Agency

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

▩ Recommended Non-Suitable

||||| Recommended Suitable

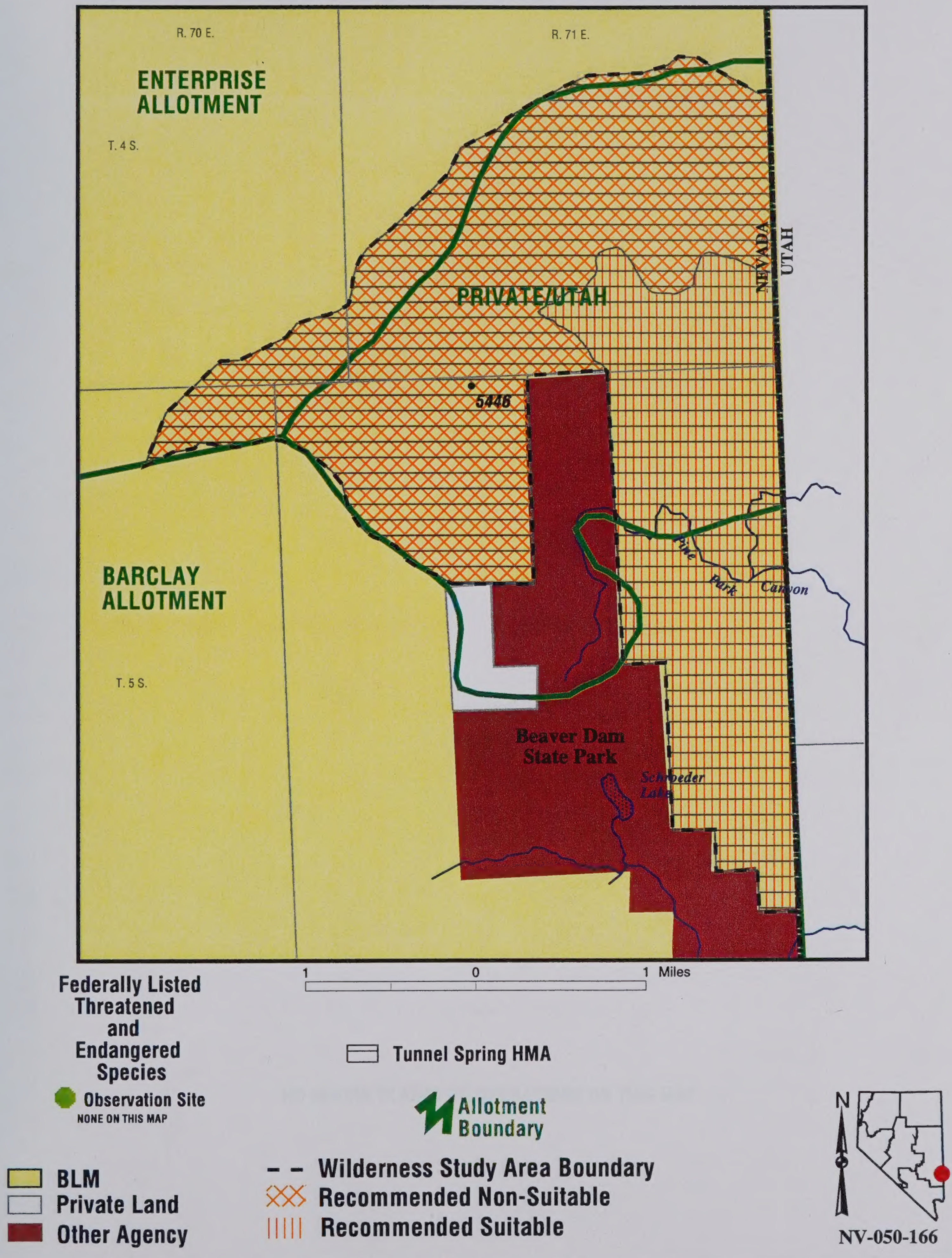


NV-050-166

10/25/2000

Tunnel Spring Wilderness Study Area

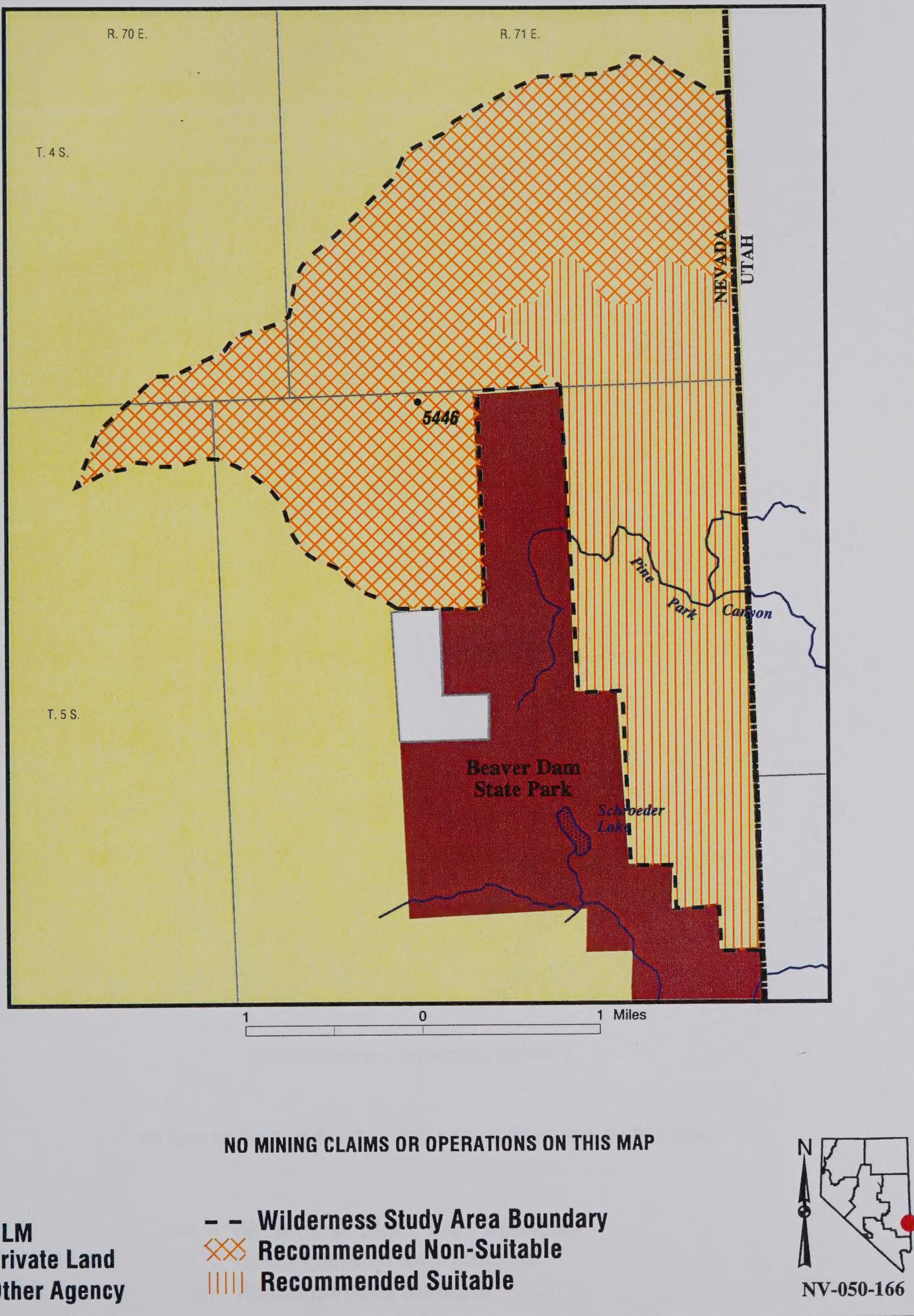
ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES


R. 70 E.
R. 71 E.
ENTERPRISE ALLOTMENT
T. 4 S.
PRIVATE/UTAH
NEVADA
UTAH
5446
BARCLAY ALLOTMENT
T. 5 S.
Pine Park Canyon
Beaver Dam State Park
Schroeder Lake
1
0
1 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
● Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
Tunnel Spring HMA
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
Recommended Suitable
N
NV-050-166

10/25/2000

Tunnel Spring Wilderness Study Area

MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS

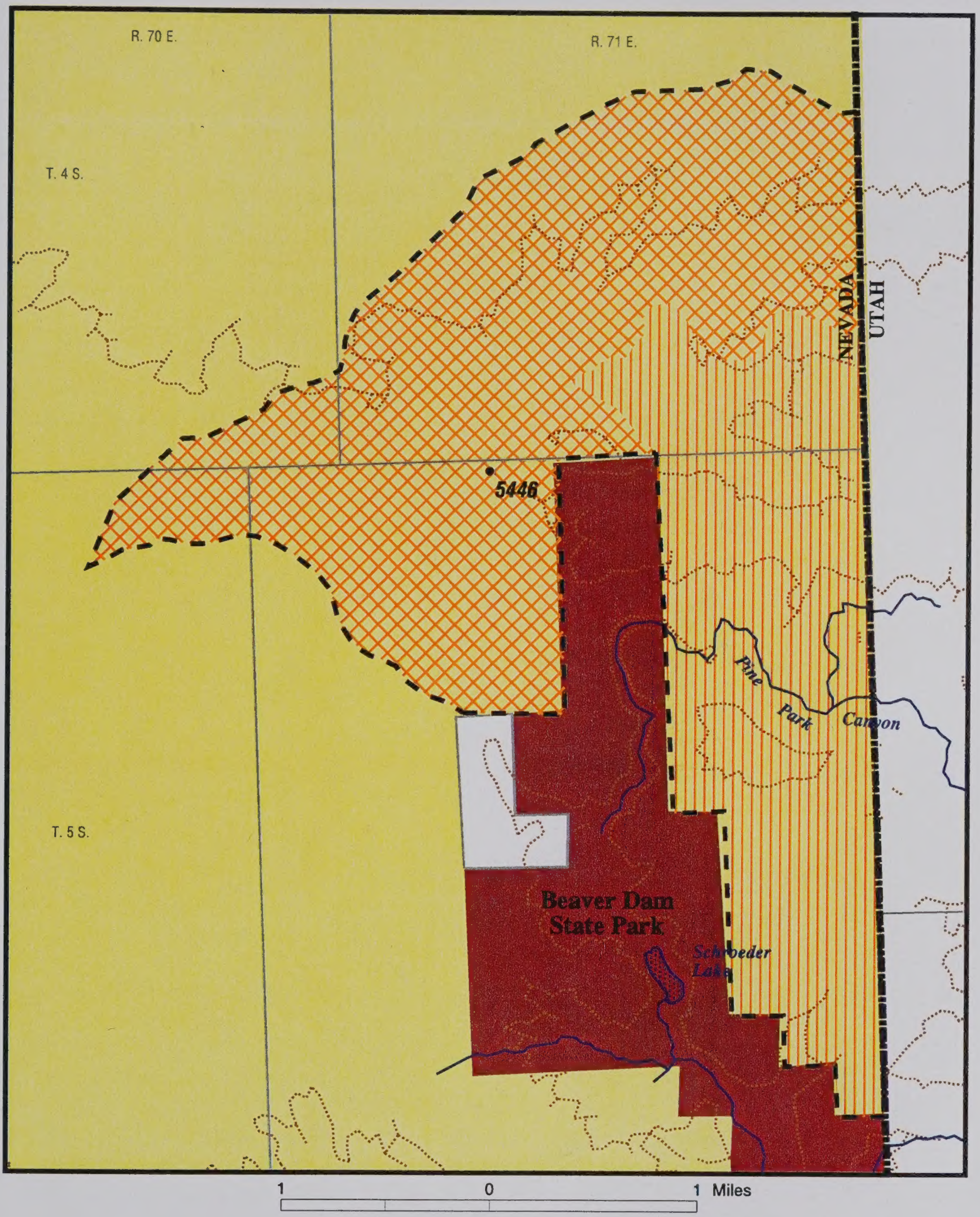

R. 70 E.
R. 71 E.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
NEVADA
UTAH
5446
Pine Park Canyon
Beaver Dam State Park
Schroeder Lake
1
0
1 Miles
N
NV-050-166

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**
|||| **Recommended Suitable**

Tunnel Spring Wilderness Study Area
MINERAL POTENTIAL

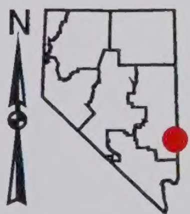

R. 70 E.
R. 71 E.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
NEVADA
UTAH
5446
Pine Park Canyon
Beaver Dam State Park
Schroeder Lake
1
0
1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable
|||| Recommended Suitable



NV-050-166

DELAMAR MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 126,257 acres

Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA), NV-050-177, consists of the southern extension of the Delamar Mountain Range, is approximately 205 square miles, and is located in southern Lincoln County, seventy-five miles north of Las Vegas and approximately fifteen miles southeast of Alamo.

Roughly rectangular in shape, the WSA is 3 to 13 miles east to west, and 23 miles north to south. The western border is located along a powerline and unpaved roads, from its northwest corner, south to its juncture with Highway 93. It follows Highway 93 and old Highway 93 to another unpaved road on the south which eventually terminates, and the boundary goes on to meet Kane Springs County road. It follows the Kane Springs road for several miles, breaking off to follow an older road about one and one-third miles north of the Willow Springs road, continues on the road as it turns into the Delamar Mountains in a major drainage. The road and boundary continue northward through Gregerson Basin and around the north end of the unit to the northwestern corner. One long cherrystem penetrates from the northeast towards the unit's center and two shorter ones enter on the southwest.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - **0 acres recommended for wilderness**
126,257 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is not to designate the study area as wilderness and to release the entire area for uses other than wilderness. BLM's decision not to recommend the Delamar Mountains WSA for wilderness designation is based upon a determination of potential resource conflicts and manageability concerns including an inability to recommend a boundary that would be easily identified, manageable, and clearly recognizable to the user public. A lack of physical barriers to limit the incursion of off-highway vehicles into the WSA weighed heavily in the recommendation for this WSA. Although the entire area could be managed as wilderness, the resources that would be required to ensure the integrity of the boundary and the management of an area of marginal wilderness values would be cost prohibitive and could not be effectively enforced.

Topographic configuration of the WSA is such that most areas of the WSA are easily accessed from the cherrystemmed road and range improvements located deep in the center of the study area or up Bomber Wash from the south. Nevada Department of Wildlife has proposed placing up to eight upland gamebird water developments in the bottom of Bomber Wash. Development of these projects would encourage vehicle access deep into any area that would be recommended as wilderness. Slopes in the central portion of the WSA are such that they pose little impediment to off-road travel.

The highest quality wilderness values are in the Bomber Canyon area and along the periphery of the study area where solitude can be found. However, the majority of the study area exhibits a lack of quality wilderness values throughout a large portion of the WSA, the key consideration in the BLM's recommendation. While the WSA contained the wilderness values necessary for study, they are not considered to be of a quality and continuity throughout the WSA to merit the area's inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The WSA generally appears natural but the aggregate affects of gradual incursion of human activity and resource development around the perimeter and core of the study area and the potential impacts in Bomber Wash and sights and sounds adjacent to highway 93, combine to reduce the area where a quality recreation experience can be gained to a small "H" or "U" shaped configuration near the top of the mountains. Opportunities for solitude are extremely limited on the west side of the WSA due to the severe slope of the range and visibility to U.S. Highway 93.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. **Naturalness:** The Delamar Mountains WSA is sixty-five to seventy percent natural with negligible human imprints except in certain areas. The area ranges from relatively featureless to very rugged and enclosed. With the exception of hunter access and water hauling for cattle, the area is currently seldom used by man. With the exception of the terrain exposed to Highway 93, the overall influence of human imprints on the area's naturalness is negligible.

The WSA contains two reservoirs, ten quail guzzlers, a five-mile bladed cherrystem road to one of the reservoirs, a three-mile cherrystem to Willow Springs, a one and a half mile cherrystem on the east and several ways. Affecting naturalness are the cherrystem to Pony Well, Highway 93 and the powerline corridor. Low level military jet aircraft overflights often occur.

B. **Solitude**: Several deep twisting canyons that issue from the central core region and into the southern bajada offer outstanding topographic screening provided by the cliffs and deeply eroded side drainages. Bomber Wash offers outstanding topographic screening. Topographic screening is outstanding in portions of the eastern mountainous region due to the numerous hills, peaks, washes, and draws.

Topographic screening in the plateau core area is severely limited. There is limited topographic screening provided by the cliff and bajada along the west side although this area does offer some topographic relief if actively sought by visitors. The southern and eastern bajada areas offer limited topographic screening, provided by the shallow washes and low hills found adjacent to the uplands of the WSA.
The desert shrubs, mixed with a small open stand of pinyon/juniper, provide minimal vegetative screening through much of the WSA. The large size of the WSA increases opportunities for solitude.

The majority of the WSA is isolated from outside influences with the exception of the Pony Reservoir cherrystem road and the random aircraft overflights which destroy one's sense of aloneness.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** The WSA lends itself to all types of primitive recreational opportunities, however, some precautions must be undertaken to ensure water is available in order to allow for any extended time periods. The size of the unit and the topographic diversity make these recreational opportunities range from low to outstanding. Most portions of the study area could be used for dayhiking, although long bajada areas would not be particularly attractive. Some of the long twisting canyons opening to the south, including most notably, Bomber Wash are likely routes. Many of the canyon areas and some of the boundary zones have rather spectacular cliffs which provide an attraction. In the canyons, these cliffs provide a sense of enclosure and isolation as well. On the north, a large northeasterly trending canyon makes an attractive hiking route. The higher peaks in the central and eastern portions are good destinations and provide expansive views of the Sheep Range, Pahranagat Valley, Meadow Valley Range, Mormon Mountains, Kane Springs Valley and beyond.

Large portions of the area lend themselves to various types of scrambling and climbing due to the steepness and rocky terrain. Opportunities for good photography of high, rugged, plateau type rock formations, rugged cliffs and Joshua trees are available throughout much of the WSA. The opportunity to observe and photograph desert bighorn sheep is possible. Hunting opportunities are limited for anything but scattered upland bird shooting. Due to the lack of water, horseback riding would likely be limited to the east portion out of Gregerson Basin.

4. MANAGEABILITY Two key management concerns affecting the Delamar WSA are vehicle access control and the paralleling utility corridor external to the WSA's western boundary. Terrain in the north portion of the study area makes it accessible to vehicular travel where casual and random use currently occurs. Access off the Pony Reservoir Road and Gregerson Basin Road provides ample opportunity to leave the known routes. Closing the existing ways and controlling this random travel would be nearly

impossible. Access along the west side of the WSA does not appear to be much of a problem. Casual and random use has occurred up several washes, but the terrain does not lend itself to ready access. All washes and most of the terrain in the south and east are accessible to vehicular travel. Little evidence of use exists on the ground. Access along the east side is restricted to the boundary road and the short way leading to the stock reservoir.

The BLM has been ordered by settlement of litigation to provide a permanent water in the pasture encompassing the Pony Well cherrystem road. A well was unsuccessful and some other means such as a pipeline or catchment may be necessary to accomplish the requirement. This may or may not cause some manageability problems, depending upon whether installations could be confined to the cherrystem road.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

No known locatable, strategic or critical mineral resources are known to occur in or near this WSA. Due to discoveries of mineralized areas in similar rock types in the northern part of the Delamar Range and elsewhere, the possibility of undiscovered resources exists. The salable mineral potential in this WSA is insignificant because material sites and free use areas are plentiful along roads and highways near the WSA. There are no known leasable mineral values present within this WSA, although the entire unit is under oil and gas leases.

No major conflicts are foreseen and no strategic minerals are known to occur in the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

During formal public review of the draft EIS, a total of 158 comments specifically addressing this WSA were received. Of those, 150 were written and 8 were oral statements received at the public hearing on the draft EIS. In general, 150 commentors supported wilderness designation for all or part of the WSA. Eight commentors supported the BLM preferred alternative, not to recommend the Delamar WSA for wilderness designation.

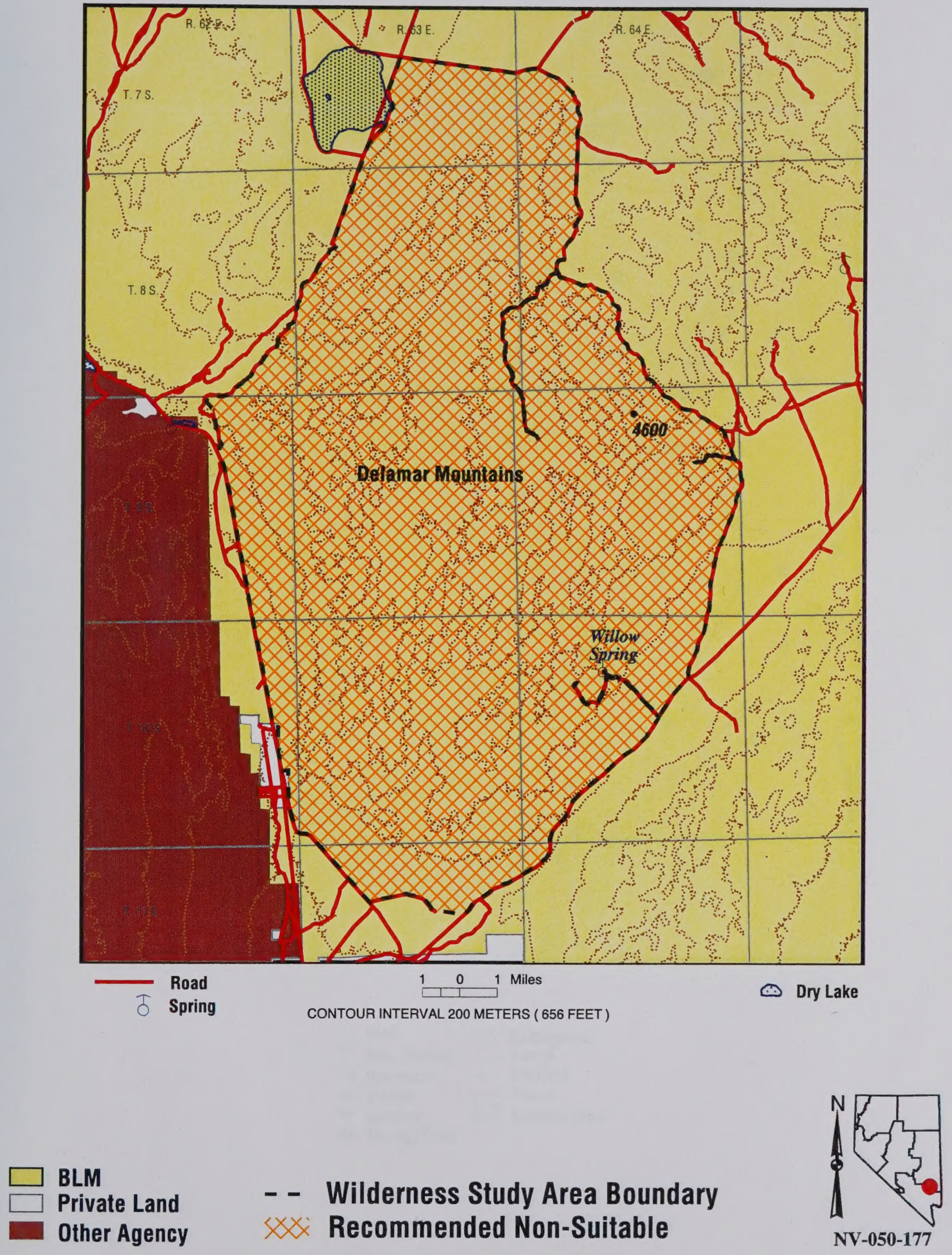
The Governors consensus review, December 28, 1984, concurred with the BLM's recommendation not to designate the Delamar WSA because of the "many resource conflicts."

The Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration observed that planned transmission lines in the corridor adjacent to the west side of the Delamar Mountains WSA would be greatly restricted if full wilderness status was designated, therefore, they support the Preferred Alternative. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power also identified conflicts with the WSA and potential rights-of-way adjacent to the study area.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observed that "Criteria for selecting suitable versus nonsuitable wilderness areas within the Delamar Mountains ... were not clear in the DEIS. This is particularly true when the Preferred Alternative (p. 2-2 to 2-4) and the Wilderness Accent Alternative (p.2-6 to 2-8) are compared." The Environmental Protection Agency recommended reevaluation of the Delamar WSA "since mineral resources are speculative, except for sand, gravel and perlite, (sic) and ORV use has a potential to be managed to some degree".

Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area

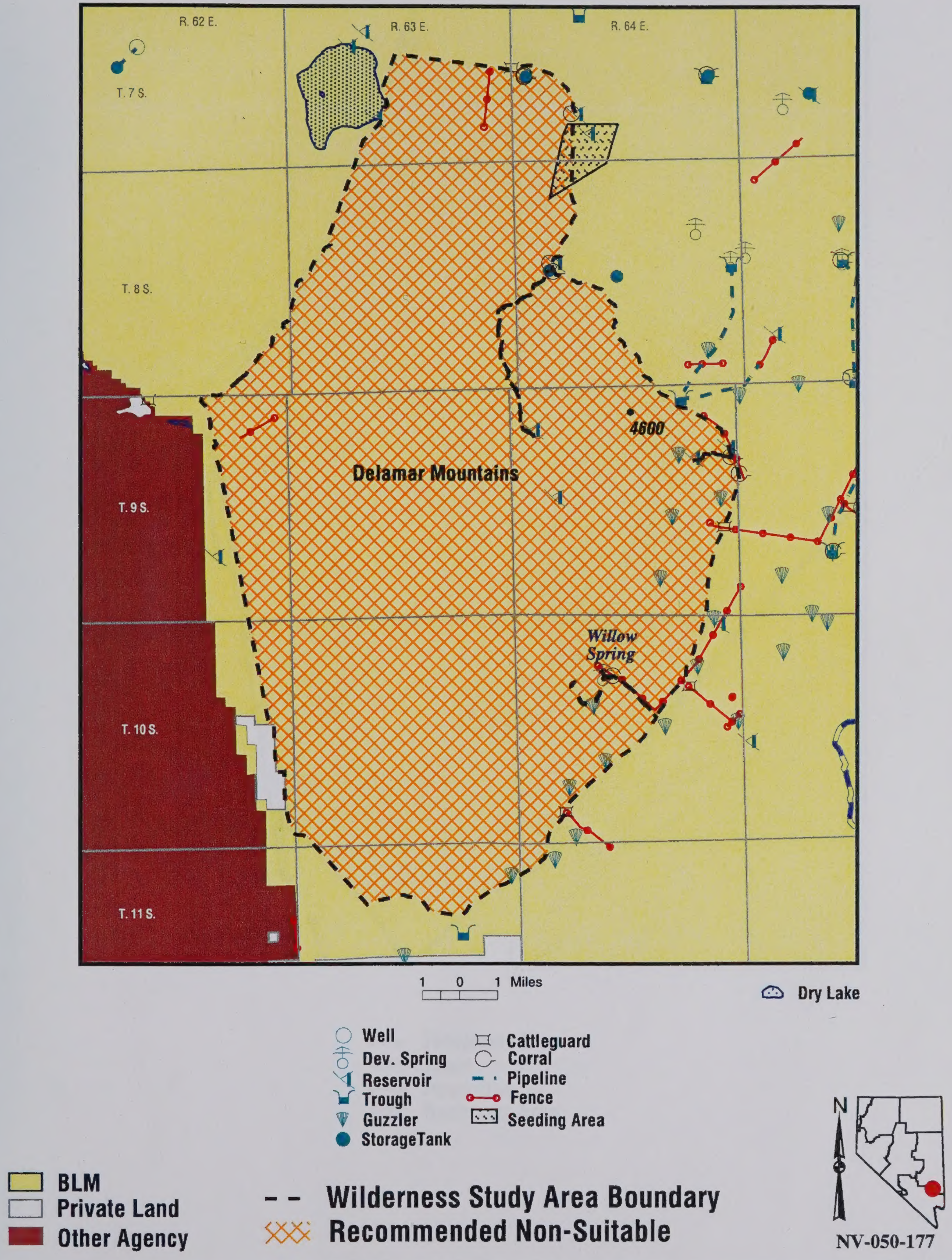
WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
R. 64 E.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
4600
Delamar Mountains
Willow Spring
Road
Spring
1 0 1 Miles
CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)
Dry Lake
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-050-177

10/25/2000

Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES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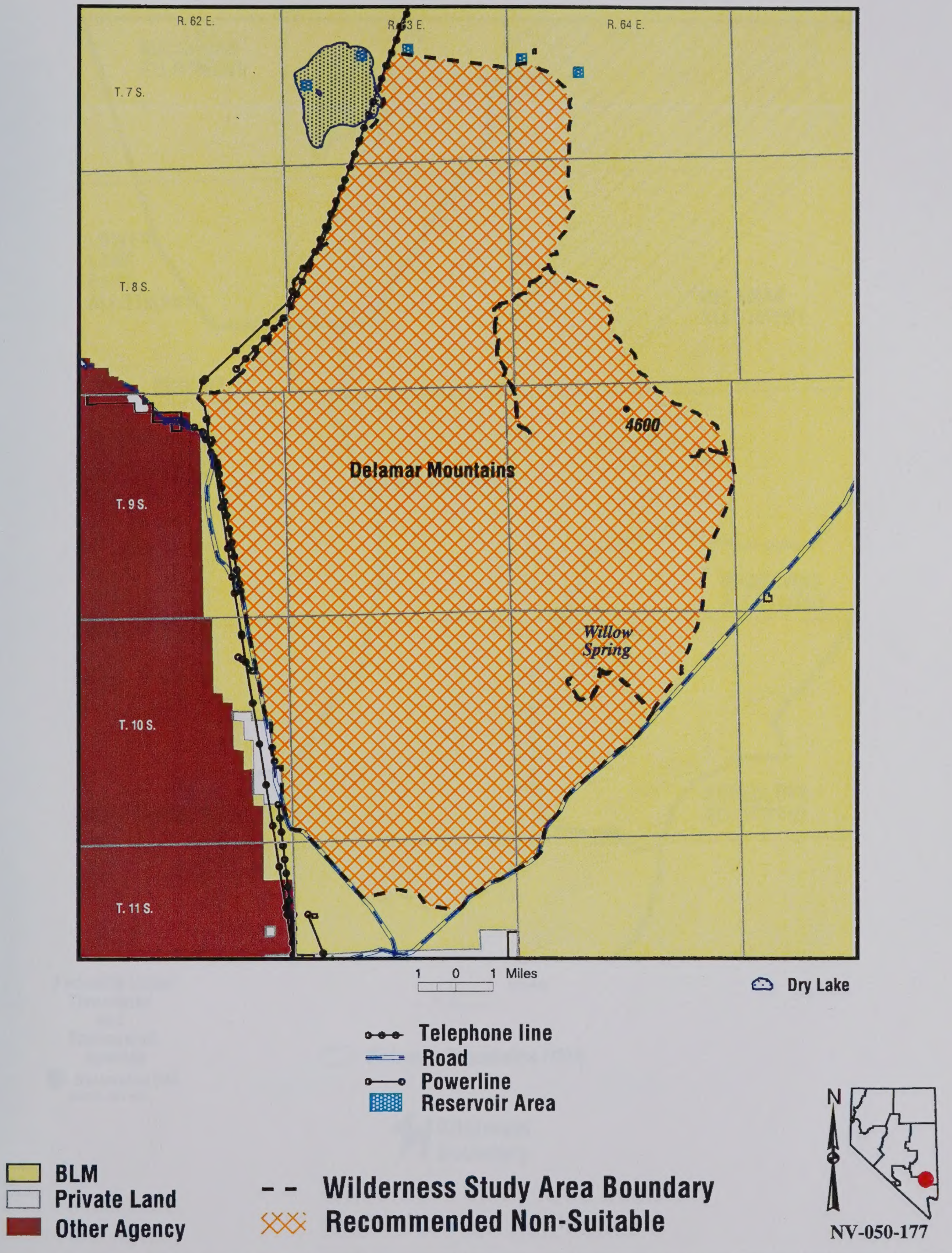
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
4600
Delamar Mountains
Willow Spring
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake
Well
Dev. Spring
Reservoir
Trough
Guzzler
StorageTank
Cattleguard
Corral
Pipeline
Fence
Seeding Area
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-050-177

10/25/2000

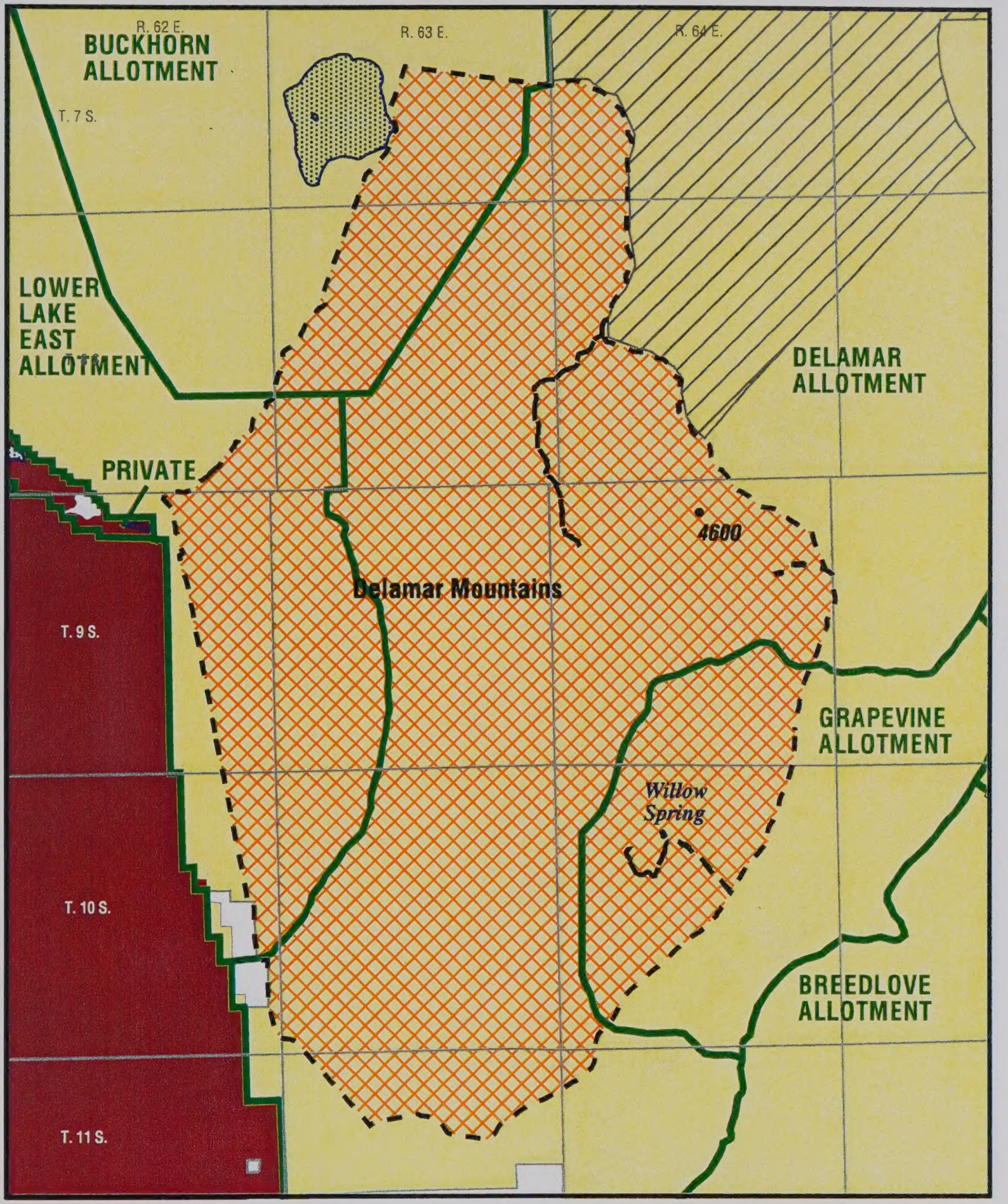
Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area
RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
R. 64 E.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
4600
Delamar Mountains
Willow Spring
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake
Telephone line
Road
Powerline
Reservoir Area
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N
NV-050-177

10/25/2000

Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES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BUCKHORN ALLOTMENT
T. 7 S.
LOWER LAKE EAST ALLOTMENT
PRIVATE
DELAMAR ALLOTMENT
4600
Delamar Mountains
T. 9 S.
GRAPEVINE ALLOTMENT
Willow Spring
T. 10 S.
BREEDLOVE ALLOTMENT
T. 11 S.

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
● Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP

1 0 1 Miles

Dry Lake

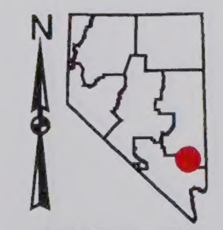
▨ Delamar Mountains HMA

Allotment Boundary

🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
🟥 Other Agency

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary

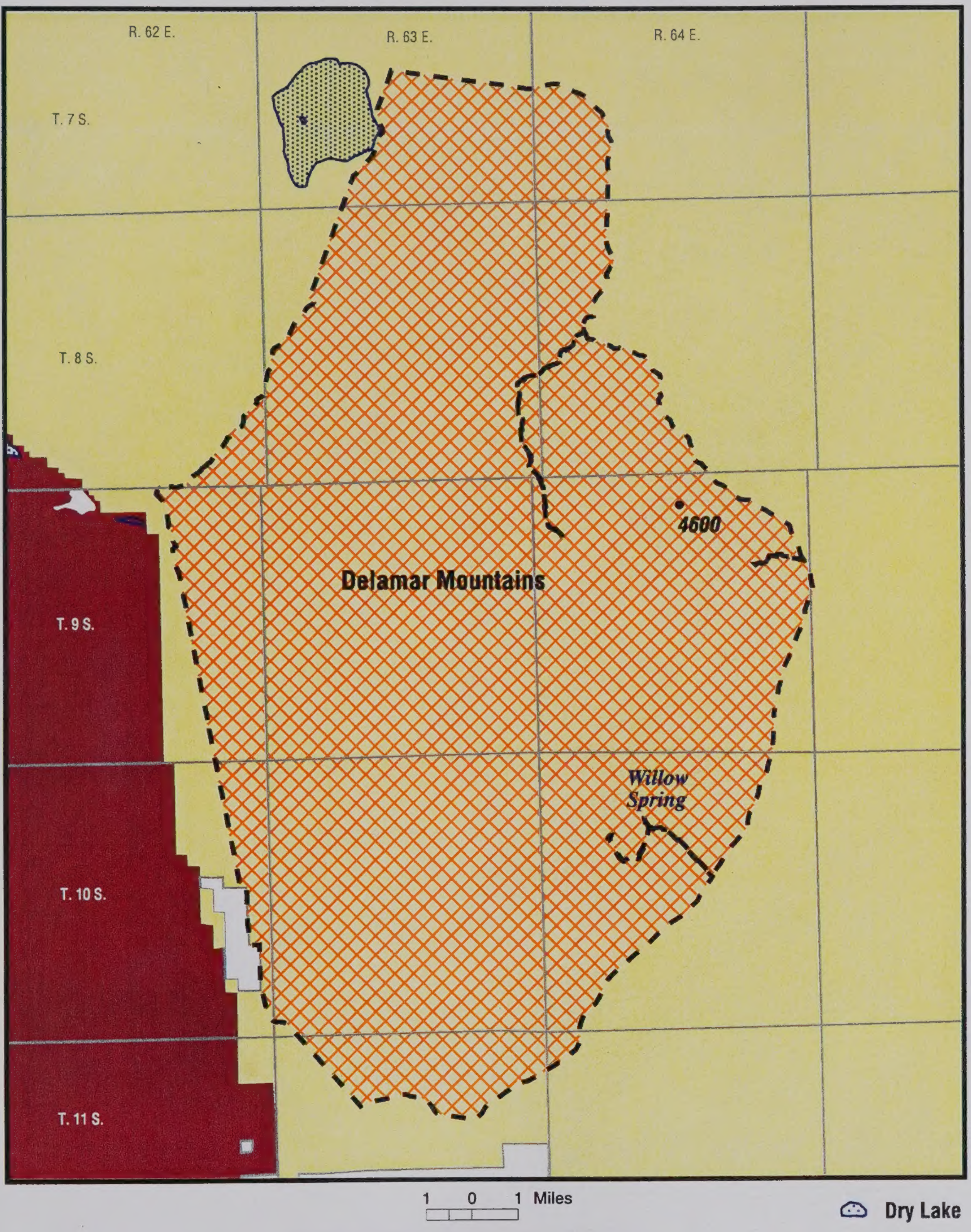
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable



NV-050-177

10/25/2000

Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
R. 64 E.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
4600
Delamar Mountains
Willow Spring
1 0 1 Miles
Dry Lake

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

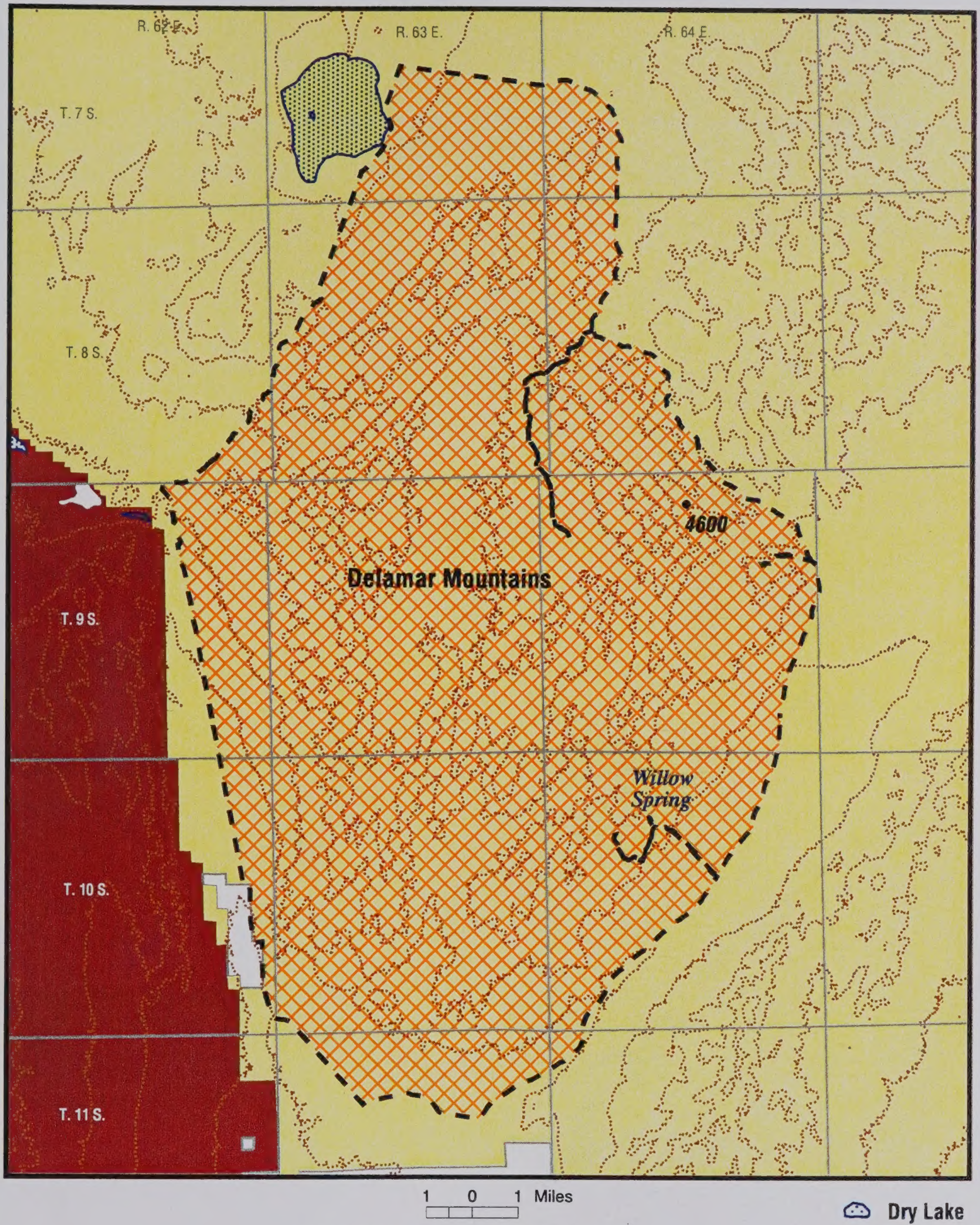
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**

NV-050-177

10/25/2000

Delamar Mountains Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
R. 64 E.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
4600
Delamar Mountains
Willow Spring
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

Dry Lake

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-050-177

EVERGREEN ABC WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA - 2,694 acres

The Evergreen ABC WSA (NV-050-01R-16) is in Lincoln County, Nevada, approximately 85 miles north of Las Vegas. Located a few miles south of Alamo, Nevada and the Pahranagat Wildlife Refuge, the WSA is sandwiched between the Desert National Wildlife Range to the west and U.S. Highway 93 on the east. Evergreen ABC is composed of three small sub-areas separated by private lands. Sub-area A is 2,194 acres, sub-area B is 289 acres and sub-area C is 211 acres. A combined total of 2,694 acres (Table 1). Sub-part A is approximately seven miles long and up to one mile in width; B is a little over a mile long and one-half mile wide; C is two miles long by one half mile wide. All the sub-areas are long and narrow in form.

The WSA is contiguous to the Desert National Wildlife Range along its west side. Section A's northern boundary is defined by a major drainage which intersects a road. The area's eastern boundary follows the road south for approximately 3 miles until it intersects a powerline right-of-way and then is identified as the west right-of-way boundary of the powerline. Section A is bordered to the south by a parcel of private land.

Section B's northern and eastern boundaries are defined by private property. The southern portion of Section B is contiguous with the Desert National Wildlife Range.

Private property defines Section C's northern border. The eastern border follows a road which intersects the Desert National Wildlife Range at the WSA's southern boundary.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE - 0 acres recommended for wilderness 2,694 acres recommended for nonwilderness

The recommendation for this WSA is to release all 2,694 acres for uses other than wildernes. The lack of wilderness values, the area's small size and the elimination of conflicts with potential utility developments were the key considerations in the recommendation.

The WSA generally appears natural. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are lacking due to the topographic and physical configuration of the WSA. The area's small size limits opportunities for solitude as there are few if any secluded locales. Visitors would frequently encounter one another due to the area's restrictive size and lack of topographic features. Outstanding opportunities for primitive types of recreation are unavailable as interesting destinations and focal points of interest are absent from the study area.

The no wilderness recommendation for the WSA emphasizes making the area available for utility development. Urban expansion and growth of Las Vegas Valley has sparked the need for utility expansion. Resource value for potential development of utilities outweighs the area's limited wilderness values. Over the long-term, naturalness values within the WSA could be diminished by increased motorized recreational activity and development of potential utilities. Desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii), a special feature identified in the area, would not receive the added protection afforded from wilderness designation.

3. WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

A. Naturalness: The WSA is primarily in a natural condition. The WSA is a broad, easterly sloping bajada with numerous small draws and washes. Two small stock reservoirs are within the northern portion, sub-part A. The most prominent visible man-made features are outside the WSA (highway, powerline, roads) along the area's eastern boundary.

B. Solitude: The WSA does not possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. The WSA's extremely

small size, low-growing vegetation and flat easterly sloping topography provides minimal screening and virtually no secluded spots for experiencing solitude.

C. **Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:** The study area offers limited opportunities for horseback riding, hiking and nature study as the WSA's extremely small size limits movement. Few interesting locales and interesting features are located within the WSA that would draw visitors to the area to participate in primitive recreational experiences. At best, the area would be used for access into the Desert National Wildlife Range.

D. **Special Features:** The desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizii), listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species on April 2, 1990, has been identified within the WSA. In 1988, a habitat management plan for the tortoise was adopted by the BLM. It calls for the categorization of their habitat by management goals. On August 4, 1989, the desert tortoise was listed, for 240 days, as an endangered species under emergency listing rules and subsequently was permanently listed as threatened on April 2, 1990.

4. MANAGEABILITY The entire study area is not capable of being managed as wilderness. Approximately 30 acres consisting of a material site right-of-way was issued in perpetuity to the Nevada Department of Transportation. Full utilization of the right-of-way is expected to occur. Extraction of sand and gravel from the site would negatively impact natural values in the WSA. There would be management concerns dealing with the WSA's small size and ORV accessibility.

5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE VALUES

No known metallic or nonmetallic mineral deposits exist within the WSA as the geologic conditions are not favorable for the accumulation of these minerals. As of the date of this report, no mine, prospects, or mining claims have been identified within the WSA. The exploration for any potential locatable minerals is not projected for the study area. Sand and gravel deposits may occur in the alluvial deposits, but no commercial value is anticipated.

The study area has moderate potential for the occurrence of oil and gas because of its position with respect to the Overthrust Belt and sedimentary basin concept. To date, no wells have been drilled, nor has geophysical exploration been conducted within the WSA. Exploration for, or development of, potential energy resources is not projected to occur within the study area. Presently no oil and gas or geothermal leases exist within the WSA.

In summary, quantities of various mineral or energy resources are unknown, but the potential for occurrence for oil and gas is moderate throughout the WSA.

6. SUMMARY OF WSA-SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

In 1986, the area was reinstated in the wilderness study process as a result of an April 1985 decision in Sierra Club vs Watt concerning certain lands that were deleted from wilderness review in 1982 and 1983. As a result of the court case, the area was reinventoried to document wilderness characteristics.
One public comment was received pertaining to the decision of the original inventory of the WSA. The comment disagreed with the decision that the area be approved as a Wilderness Study Area. Comments cited that the area lacked opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

Two public hearings were held during the public review period on the Draft Nevada Contiguous Lands Wilderness EIS. The first was in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 3, 1988. Oral statements were presented by 22 people. Six oral statements were presented at the second hearing at Reno, Nevada on August 4, 1988. None of the oral comments supported the All Wilderness Alternative and 1 supported the Proposed Action (no wilderness). Of 36 written comments, three supported the All Wilderness recommendation and five supported No Wilderness. Subjects of the comments were the proximity of the proposed wilderness

to the Desert National Wildlife Range, possible buffer zones for the Range, desert tortoise, race courses, oil and gas potential and potential powerline intrusions.

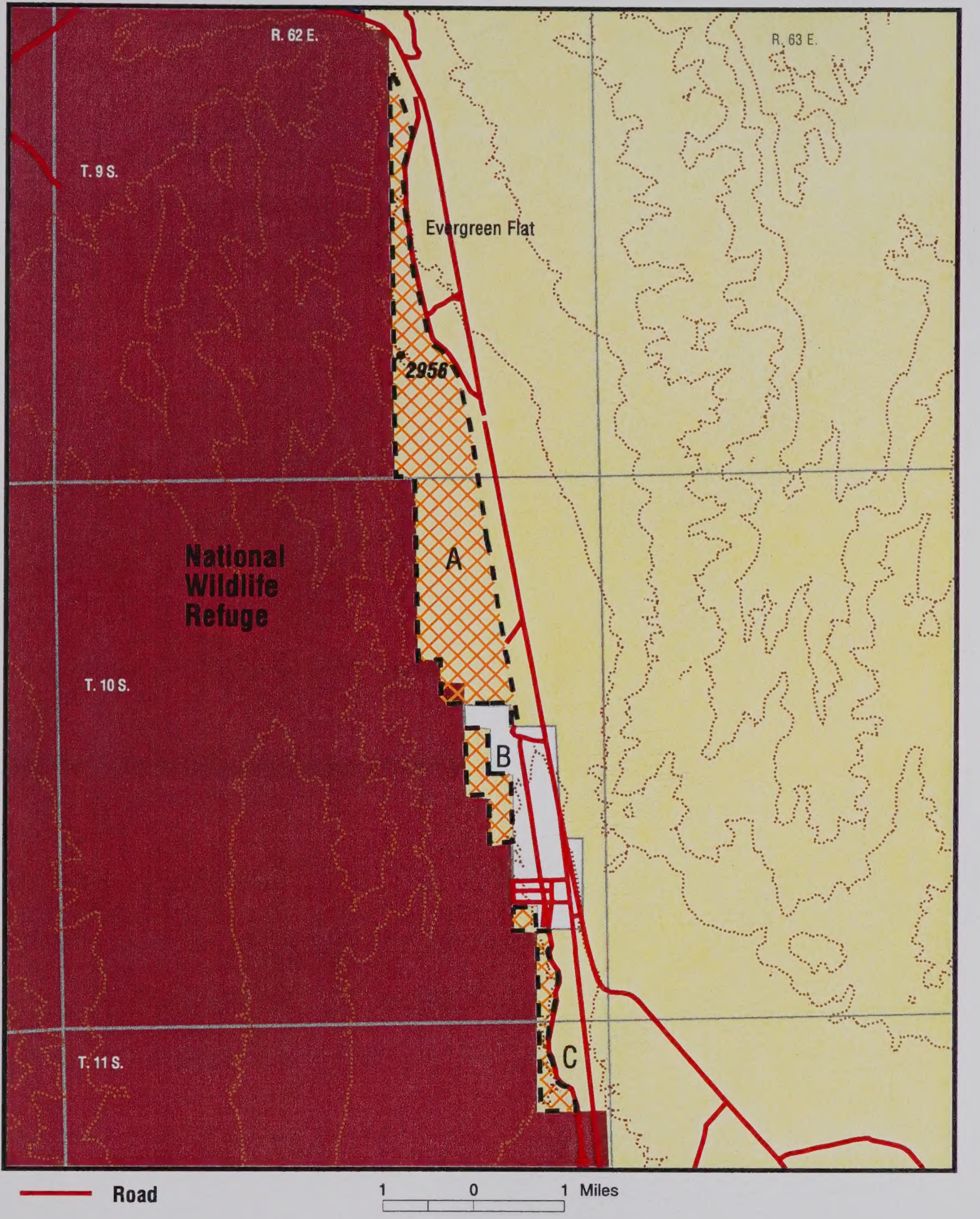
In a letter from the Clearinghouse of the State of Nevada, dated September 7, 1988, the Director of the Clearinghouse said, "...the State concurs with the recommendation presented in the document (Draft Nevada Contiguous Lands Wilderness EIS)."

During Public Hearings oral testimony was given by a Lincoln County representative. Lincoln county supports BLM's No Wilderness (Proposed Action) recommendation.

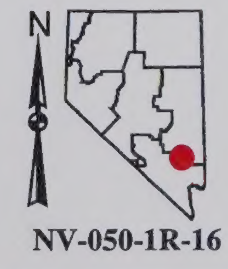
3/13/00

Evergreen A B C Wilderness Study Area

WSA BOUNDARIES AND LAND OWNERSHIP


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
T. 9 S.
Evergreen Flat
2956
National Wildlife Refuge
A
T. 10 S.
B
C
T. 11 S.
Road
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)



🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

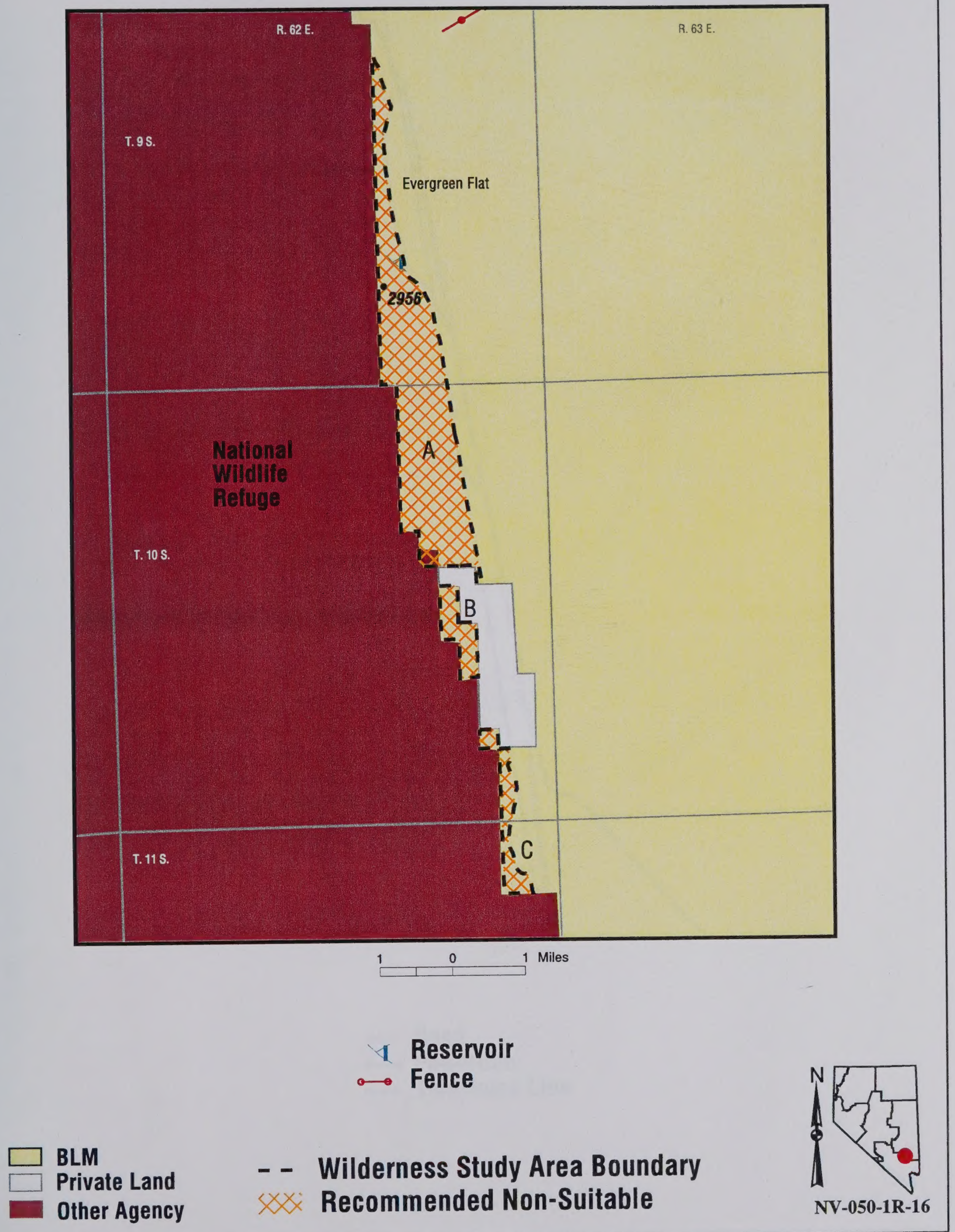
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-050-1R-16

3/13/00

Evergreen A B C Wilderness Study Area

DEVELOPMENTS AND DISTURBANCES

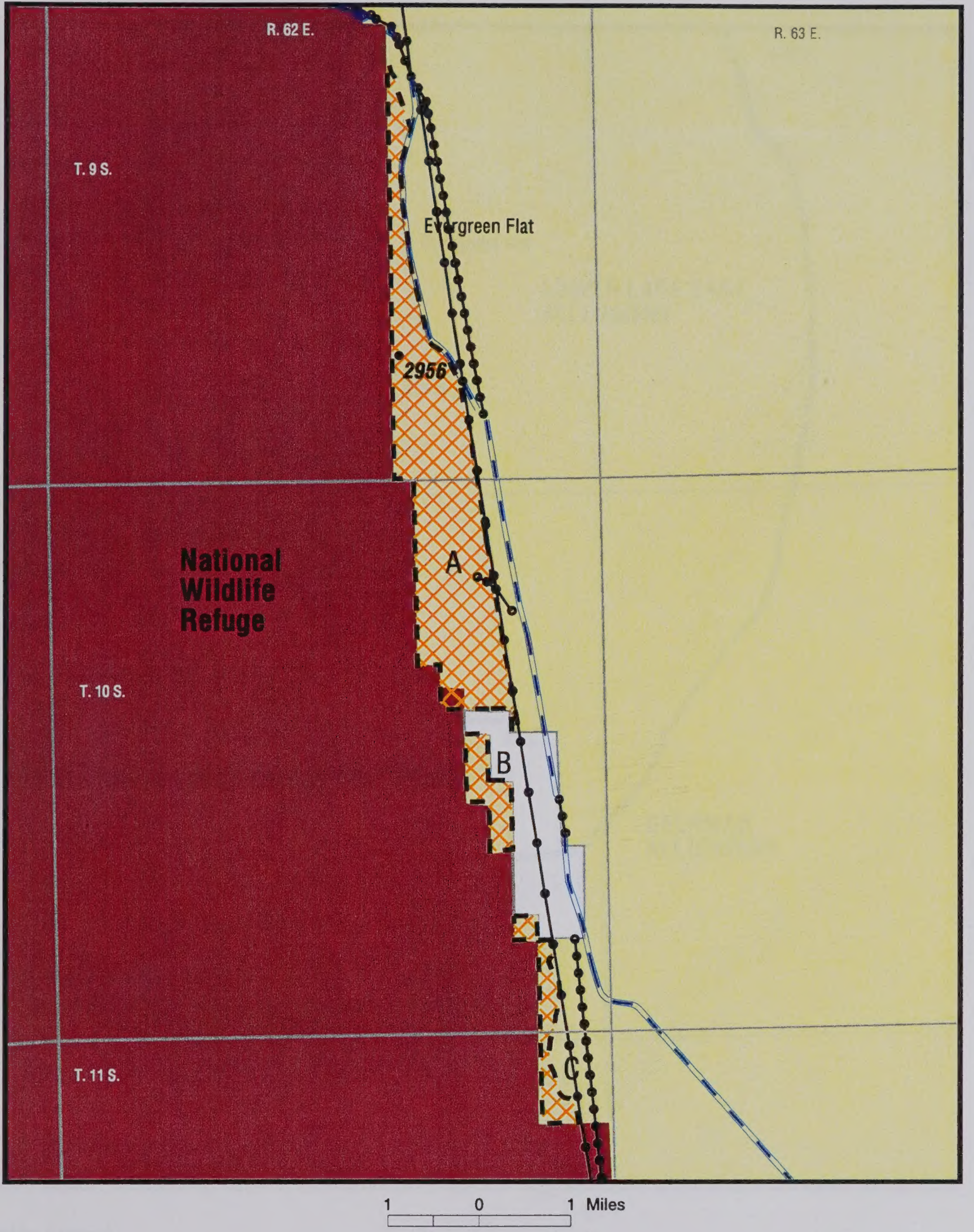

R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
T. 9 S.
Evergreen Flat
2956
A
National Wildlife Refuge
T. 10 S.
B
C
T. 11 S.
1 0 1 Miles
Reservoir
Fence
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N

NV-050-1R-16

3/13/00

Evergreen A, B, C Wilderness Study Area

RIGHTS-OF-WAY


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
T. 9 S.
Evergreen Flat
2956
National Wildlife Refuge
A
T. 10 S.
B
T. 11 S.
C
1 0 1 Miles

- Road
- Powerline
- Telephone Line

🟨 BLM
☐ Private Land
🟥 Other Agency

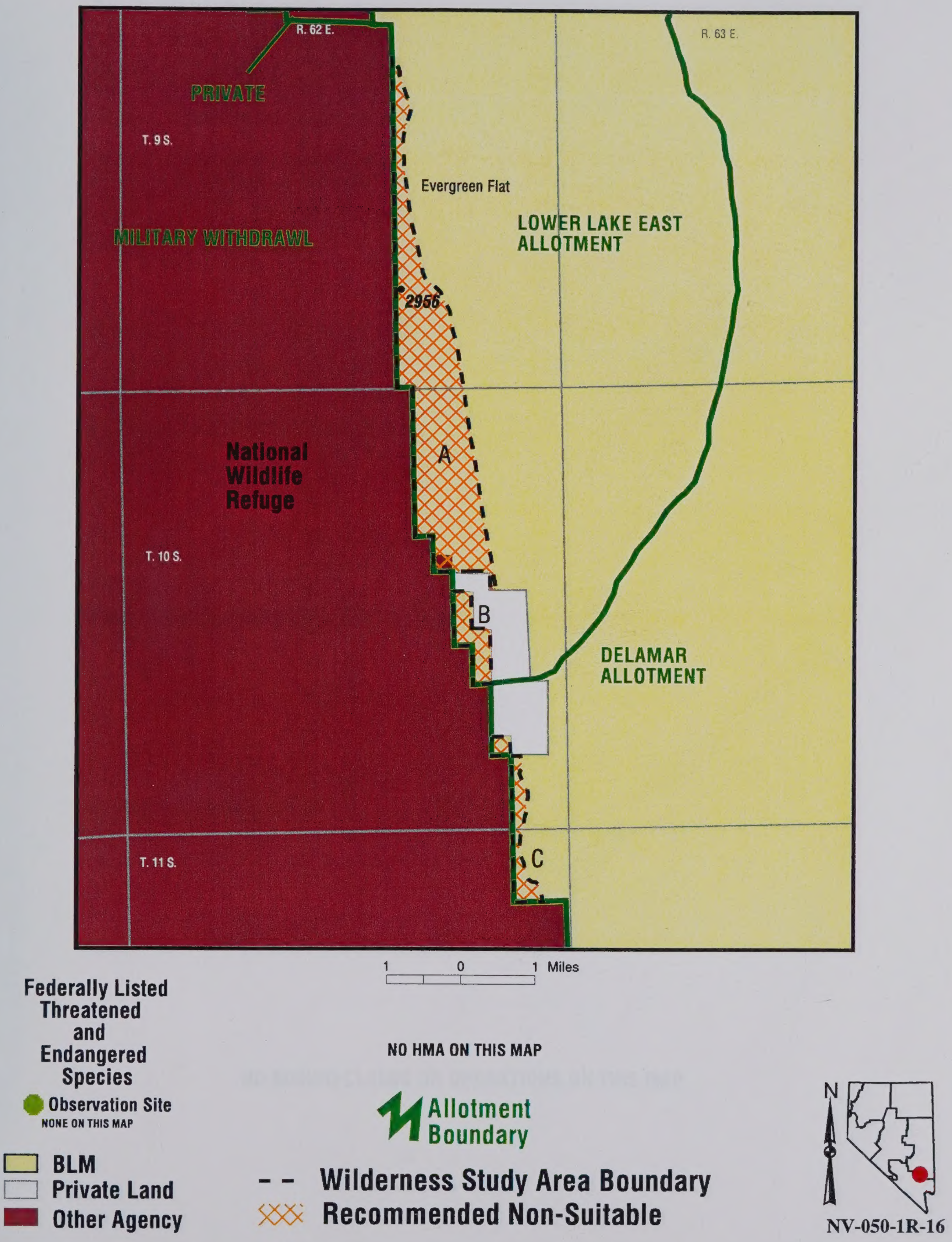
- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
XXX Recommended Non-Suitable

NV-050-1R-16

3/13/00

Evergreen A B C Wilderness Study Area

ALLOTMENT AND HMA BOUNDARIES, T&E OCCURRENCES

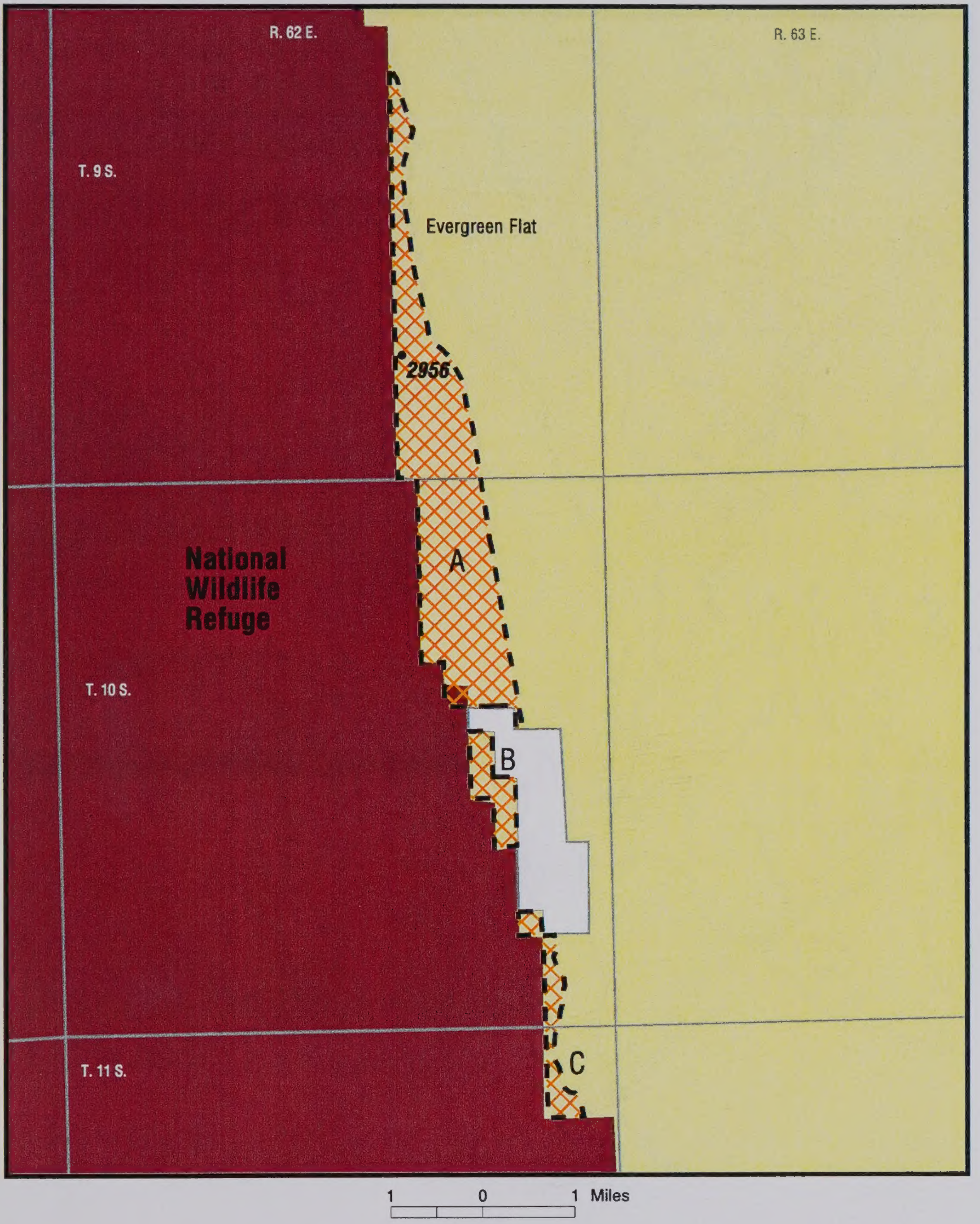

R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
PRIVATE
T. 9 S.
Evergreen Flat
LOWER LAKE EAST ALLOTMENT
MILITARY WITHDRAWL
2956
National Wildlife Refuge
A
T. 10 S.
B
DELAMAR ALLOTMENT
T. 11 S.
C
1 0 1 Miles
Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species
Observation Site
NONE ON THIS MAP
NO HMA ON THIS MAP
Allotment Boundary
BLM
Private Land
Other Agency
Wilderness Study Area Boundary
Recommended Non-Suitable
N

NV-050-1R-16

3/13/00

Evergreen A B C Wilderness Study Area

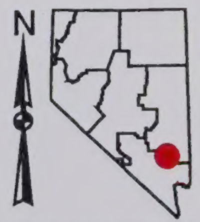
MINING CLAIM DENSITY AND OPERATIONS


R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
T. 9 S.
Evergreen Flat
2956
National Wildlife Refuge
A
T. 10 S.
B
C
T. 11 S.
1 0 1 Miles

NO MINING CLAIMS OR OPERATIONS ON THIS MAP

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - **Wilderness Study Area Boundary**
XXX **Recommended Non-Suitable**



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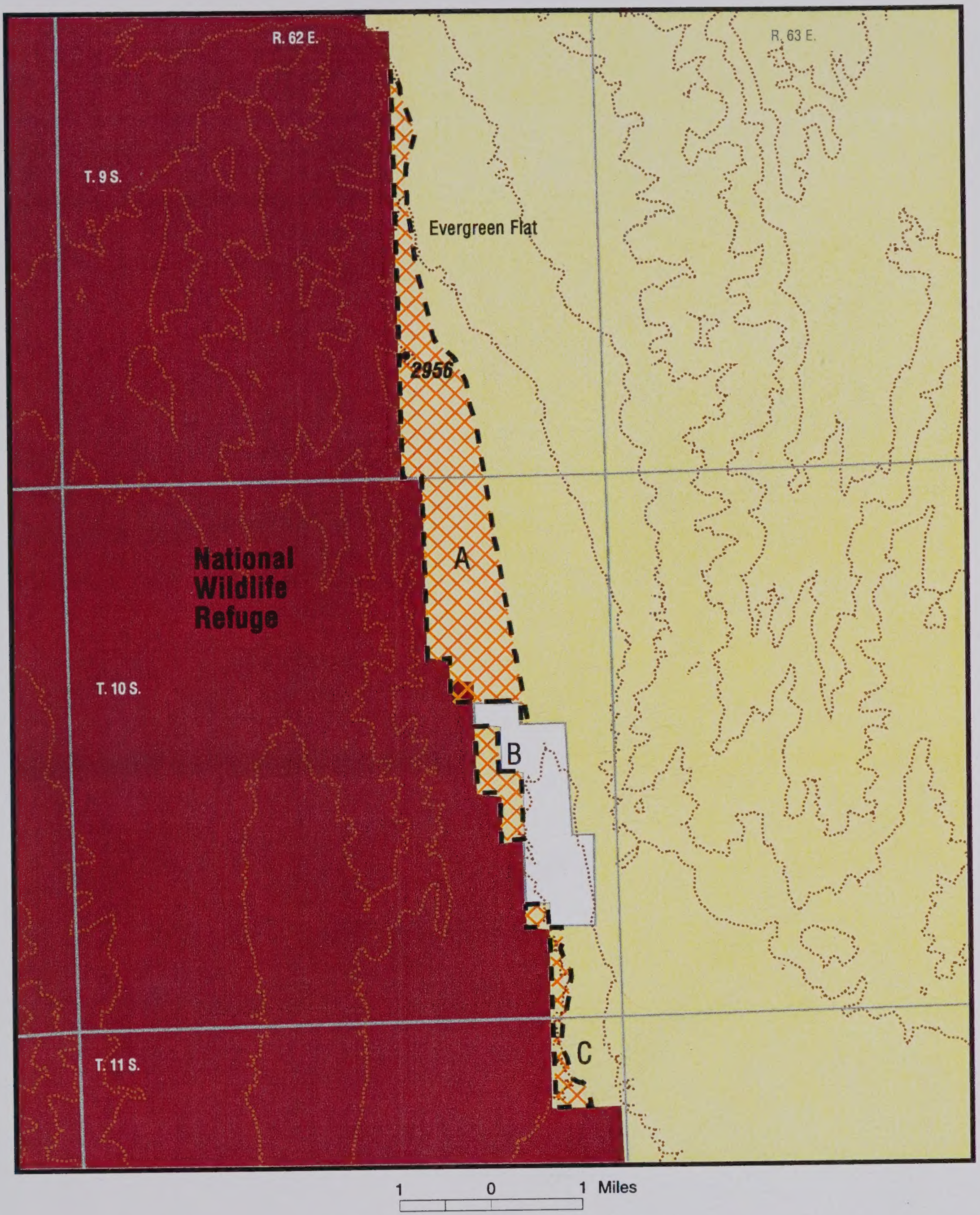
3/13/00

Evergreen A B C Wilderness Study Area

MINERAL POTENTIAL

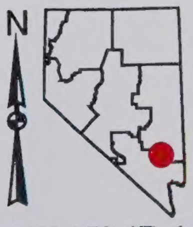

R. 62 E.
R. 63 E.
T. 9 S.
Evergreen Flat
2956
National Wildlife Refuge
A
T. 10 S.
B
C
T. 11 S.
1 0 1 Miles

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 METERS (656 FEET)

NO HIGH OR MEDIUM MINERAL POTENTIAL IS IDENTIFIED ON THIS MAP.

🟨 **BLM**
☐ **Private Land**
🟥 **Other Agency**

- - Wilderness Study Area Boundary
▨ **Recommended Non-Suitable**



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